ACROSS / A13

Comelec calls on citizens: Arrest Bedol

LIFESTYLE / C1

Wanted: RP docs to treat childhood epidemic of autism

WORLD / A20

Lawyers beaten up as crackdown in Pakistan continues

NEWS / A2

Macarambon takes oath, denies Garci link

WORLD / A20

The true face of King Tut revealed to public

Driverless SUV wins robot car race in US

HI-TECH SI BOSS!

VICTORVILLE, California—A souped-up Chevy Tahoe sport utility vehicle (SUV) with a mind of its own was declared the winner of a robot car race on Sunday after it traveled

DRIVERLESS/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Tuesday, November 6, 2007 ★★ 6 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 331 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Storm 'Kabayan' kills 7; state of calamity up

By Inquirer Northern Luzon

TROPICAL STORM "KABAYAN" PUMMELED northern Luzon with winds gusting up to 135 kilometers per hour, plunging towns and villages into darkness and killing seven people—including a lawyer and his girl friend, who drowned while swimming despite warnings to stay out of the water.

STORM/ A6

US aid tied to RP action on killings

3 conditions set for additional military assistance

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE US SENATE HAS served notice it wants the Arroyo administration to prosecute human rights violators, including soldiers, before it approves additional military aid.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo yesterday said he had thanked the US Senate for approving an increase in regular military funding to the Philippines from $11 million to $30 million.

But in the first significant international backlash over the wave of killings of left-wing activists blamed on Philippine security forces, the US Senate also set conditions for the release of an additional $2 million in military assistance.

In a statement from New York, Romulo said the US Senate wanted to be assured by US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice that:

- The Philippine government is implementing the recommendations of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions.
- The Philippine government is implementing a policy of promoting military personnel who demonstrate professionalism and respect for human rights, and is investigating and prosecuting military personnel and others who have been credibly alleged to have committed extrajudicial executions or other violations of human rights.
- The Philippine military is not engaging in acts of intimidation or violence against members of legal organizations who advocate for human rights.

In a 21-page report to the UN General Assembly on Oct. 28, UN Special Rapporteur Philip Alston stuck to his findings earlier this year that leftist leaders in some parts of the Philippines were "systematically hunted down."

The report lumped the Philippines with 30 countries—led by the United States, Israel, China and Russia—that

US AID/ A8

JOAN BONDOC

ILOILO Vice Gov. Rolex Suplico (second from right), Harry Roque, Josephine Lichauco and other civil society leaders submit a supplemental impeachment complaint against ex-Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos and the President to House Secretary General Roberto Nazareno (left).

2 new impeach cases filed against President

By Christian V. Esguerra, TJ Burgonio and Christine O. Avendaño

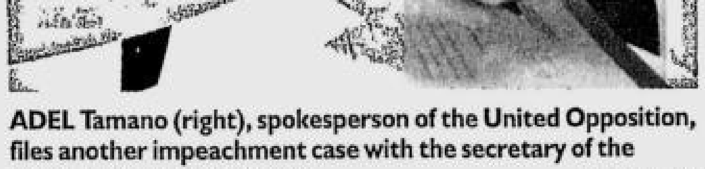
IN A MOVE ADMITTEDLY MORE "symbolic" than legal, groups seeking to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday filed two impeachment cases, one of which sought to add muscle to the purportedly "sham" complaint initiated by lawyer Roel Pulido.

The complaints—which came two hours apart and shortly after the House of Representatives resumed its regular session—sought to test Ms Arroyo's purported one-year immunity from another impeachment proceeding.

The prescription supposedly began after Pulido's three-page complaint was filed and referred to the committee on justice on Oct. 11.

The House secretary general received the first complaint at 11:55 a.m. aimed at "supplementing" the impeachment case filed earlier against resigned

2 NEW/ A8



ADEL Tamano (right), spokesperson of the United Opposition, files another impeachment case with the secretary of the House committee on justice.

JOAN BONDOC

Impeach fate key to GMA-JDV alliance

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

KILLING THE IMPEACHMENT complaint in the House of Representatives is widely seen as the key to keeping in place the fragile alliance between President Macapagal-Arroyo and Speaker Jose de Venecia.

Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri said House endorsement of the impeachment complaint would "put a strain" on the truce struck between Ms Arroyo and De Venecia during Saturday's meeting in Malacañang that was attended by former President Fidel Ramos.

Zubiri, secretary general of Lakas, called a press conference yesterday to tell reporters that Saturday's effort to set aside differences was genuine.

Zubiri, however, stressed that he did not believe that Ms Arroyo and De Venecia spoke privately about the impeachment complaint pending in the House.

"I don't think it will be proper that they would discuss the impeachment proceedings," said Zubiri, who stressed that the move in the House against the President "does not have the numbers" to carry it through to a Senate trial.

Zubiri declined to reveal any concrete commitments made by

IMPEACH/ A8

NPC mural ruined, says Malang

By Jerome Aning

RENOWNED ARTIST MAURO Santos—popularly known as "Malang"—yesterday said the alterations to the National Press Club's press freedom mural were not justified.

He considered the work of art "ruined."

"What was done to the original artwork was very wrong. Artists are very sensitive when their work get altered," Malang told the INQUIRER.

Malang, 79, said the unwritten rule in the commissioning of art pieces was that any alterations must have the permission of the original artist. The mural was painted by the Neo-Angono Artists Collective.

"It is understood that nothing can be changed—the original work must stand," he said.

Among the alterations to the 8 x 32-foot painting were the replacement of the International Federation of Journalists' state-

NPC MURAL/ A6

PNP turns to court as final arbiter of Glorietta blast

By Alcuin Papa and DJ Yap

LET THE COURTS DECIDE.

The Philippine National Police has taken this position in response to the claims made by Ayala Land Inc. (ALI) that the Glorietta 2 blast on Oct. 19 that killed 11 people and injured more than a hundred was not a gas explosion.

Director Geary Barias, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), yesterday said that the courts would be the final arbiter of what really happened at the Glorietta mall in Makati and of who should be held accountable.

ALI, owner of Glorietta, rebutted on Sunday the theory that the buildup of methane gas and diesel fumes triggered the blast, citing the findings of its own foreign consultants that contradicted those of the police.

The police earlier said all the evidence pointed to the gas explosion theory, a finding they said was corroborated by the Australian Federal Police, which conducted a parallel investigation.

By law, the PNP is the body that initiates and concludes inquiries into such events, Barias said at a press confer-

PNP TURNS/ A6

SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES
IT'S TIME. PASS THE RENEWABLE ENERGY BILL NOW!
PASS THE RE BILL NOW! GREENPEACE
IT'S TIME. GREENPEACE
PASS THE RE BILL NOW! GREENPEACE
IT'S TIME.
PASS THE RE BILL NOW!
IT'S TIME.

GREENPEACE activists dressed as clocks urge the Senate to pass the Renewable Energy Bill.

EDWIN BACASMAS

WWF honors 'green' firms

By TJ Burgonio

A VILLAGE AND A SOLAR PANEL manufacturer are taking steps to measure their carbon footprints. A company is slowly shifting to rice husks to produce cement. A bank is implementing a policy not to grant loans to polluting firms.

Some of the corporations in the Philippines are quietly taking these steps to reduce their carbon dioxide emissions, become energy-efficient and do their bit against global warming.

Beyond mouthing the usual rhetoric on climate change, they've partnered with World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)-Philippines to jointly assess the ecological impact of their operations and draw up ways to offset it.

The conservation group honored its partners—Barangay San Lorenzo, Sunpower, Lafarge, HSBC, Philips, Ayala Land Inc. and SM Investments

WWF HONORS/ A4

A1

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

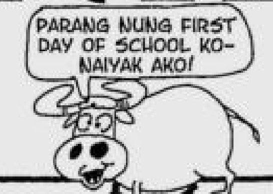
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2007

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Second FrontPage

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Website: www.inquirer.net/nation


PARANG NUNG FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL KO-NAIYAK AKO!

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The provinces of Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, and Abra will have stormy weather with rough to very rough seas. The rest of Northern Luzon will experience rains and occasional gusty winds with rough seas while Eastern Mindanao and Central Luzon will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Mostly Cloudy	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Mostly Cloudy
Baguio	Gusty Winds	**Roxas**	Mostly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Rains	**Cebu**	Mostly Cloudy
Laoag	Stormy	**Tacloban**	Mostly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	**Gen. Santos**	Mostly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Mostly Cloudy	**Zamboanga**	Mostly Cloudy
Legazpi	Mostly Cloudy	**Cagayan de Oro**	Mostly Cloudy
Calapan	Mostly Cloudy	**Davao**	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY: SCHATZI QUODALA, PDI RESEARCH/11/05/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

EZ2
19 4

FOUR DIGIT
7 5 5 0

(In exact order)

Mid-Day **SUERTRES** Evening
4 9 2 | 1 1 3

MEGALOTTO 6/45
3 4 12 14 18 26

P4,632,280.20

Macarambon: I'll be an asset

Newest Comelec commissioner takes oath, denies 'Garci' link

By Beverly T. Natividad

"I WILL BE AN ASSET TO THE Commission on Elections."

Thus declared Moslemen Macarambon Sr. yesterday, his first day on the job as the poll body's newest commissioner.

The former Iligan City judge said his long experience in the judiciary and the fact that he did not receive any political backing would make him an asset to the Comelec.

"I have been a regional trial judge for 18 years. I have handled many election protest cases as a judge," he said.

Macarambon said he was not a politician and he did not seek anyone's endorsement in order to be appointed because he did not want his work to be compromised.

He clarified that he sought the help of former Chief Justice Hilario Davide on only one occasion.

"Maybe the President saw that I'm not a politician, that's why she appointed me," Macarambon said.

After taking his oath of office in Malacañang yesterday, Macarambon met the other commissioners and toured the Comelec office.

Acting Comelec Chair Resurreccion Borra, along with Commissioners Romeo Brawner and Rene Sarmiento were on hand to welcome him.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's appointment of Macarambon drew opposition from Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who said he would block the appointment because Macarambon was supposedly a protegé of former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

Macarambon has denied this, saying Garcillano had only recently moved to Bukidnon while, he, on the other hand, was a full-blooded Maranao from Lanao del Sur.

Garcillano was believed to be on the other end of tapped phone conversations with Ms Arroyo that triggered allegations of cheating during the 2004 election.

Macarambon's appointment was also criticized by the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting whose national chair, Henrietta de Villa, said the selection process was not transparent.

De Villa said Macarambon was not even on the list of nominees of Malacañang.

"The appointing power is still with the President but a wide consultation is also necessary," she said. *With Leila B. Salaverria*

EXECUTIVE Secretary Eduardo Ermita, second from left, administers the oath of office to new Comelec Commissioner Moslemen T. Macarambon in Malacañang. Looking on are, from left, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, Macarambon's brother Sonny Macarambon and National Disaster Coordinating Council deputy administrator and deputy presidential spokesperson Dr. Tony Golez.

MALACAÑANG PHOTO/PCPO

SWS: Fewer poor, but more hungry

DESPITE RISING GROWTH FIGURES, Filipino households are lowering their standard of living—eating cheaper food and less, according to a recent survey by Social Weather Stations (SWS).

The SWS third quarter report showed self-rated poverty declined from 55-59 percent in September 2006 to 47-53 percent in the third quarter of this year, but self-rated "food poverty" increased from 37-39 percent to 43 percent. Those who reported experiencing hunger increased from last year's 16.9 percent to 21.5 percent.

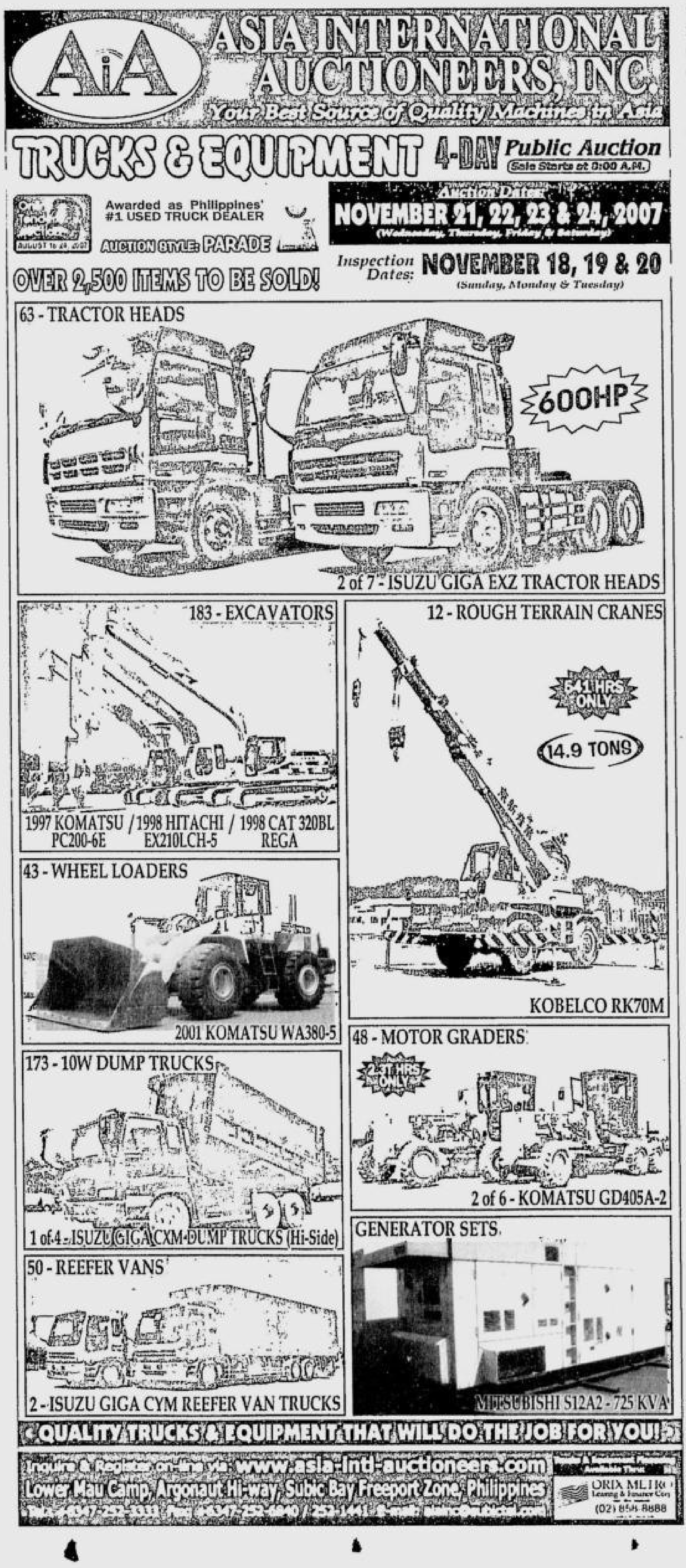
"A declining poverty threshold, despite a rising cost of living, means that households are lowering their living standards," SWS said, noting that the thresholds have considerably weakened against the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which rose by over 40 percent from the base year of 2000.

"The September 2007 median poverty threshold of P10,000 per month in Metro Manila is equivalent to only P6,863 in base year 2000," SWS said. The difference (P3,137) indicates the extent of the belt-tightening taking place.

The self-rated poverty threshold is the monthly budget that poor households need in order not to consider themselves poor in general, while the self-rated food poverty threshold is the monthly food budget that poor households need in order not to consider themselves poor in terms of food.

In the survey conducted from Sept. 2 to 7 this year, about nine million families (52 percent) said they considered themselves poor, while about 7.5 million families (43 percent) considered themselves poor in terms of food.

Overall, those who reported experiencing hunger at least once in the past three months increased from 2.9 million families last year to about 3.6 million families in the latest survey. *Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research*


AiA ASIA INTERNATIONAL AUCTIONEERS, INC.
Your Best Source of Quality Machines in Asia
TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT 4-DAY Public Auction
(Sale Starts at 9:00 A.M.)
Awarded as Philippines' #1 USED TRUCK DEALER
AUCTION STYLE: PARADE
Auction Dates: NOVEMBER 21, 22, 23 & 24, 2007 (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday)
Inspection Dates: NOVEMBER 18, 19 & 20 (Sunday, Monday & Tuesday)
OVER 2,500 ITEMS TO BE SOLD!
63 - TRACTOR HEADS
600HP
2 of 7 - ISUZU GIGA EXZ TRACTOR HEADS
183 - EXCAVATORS
1997 KOMATSU PC200-6E / 1998 HITACHI EX210LCH-5 / 1998 CAT 320BL REGA
12 - ROUGH TERRAIN CRANES
641 HRS ONLY
14.9 TONS
KOBELCO RK70M
43 - WHEEL LOADERS
2001 KOMATSU WA380-5
48 - MOTOR GRADERS
2 of 6 - KOMATSU GD405A-2
173 - 10W DUMP TRUCKS
1 of 4 - ISUZU GIGA CXM DUMP TRUCKS (Hi-Side)
GENERATOR SETS
MITSUBISHI S12A2 - 725 KVA
50 - REEFER VANS
2 - ISUZU GIGA CYM REEFER VAN TRUCKS
QUALITY TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT THAT WILL DO THE JOB FOR YOU!
Inquire & Register on-line via www.asia-intl-auctioneers.com
Lower Mau Camp, Argonaut Hi-way, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines
Tel: +6347-252-[illegible] Fax: +6347-252-[illegible] / 252-1441 E-mail: [illegible]
ORIX METRO Leasing & Finance Corp (02) 858-8888

United Auctioneers, Inc.
NOV. 17 & 18, 2007
(SATURDAY & SUNDAY)
25 TON
KATO KR25-3 ROUGH TERRAIN CRANE
2-DAY PUBLIC AUCTION
2006 Most Outstanding Heavy Equipment Auction
BEST EQUIPMENT PRICE QUALITY DEAL!!
ALL ITEMS WILL BE PARADED ON AUCTION DAY!
INSPECTION DATES: NOV. 14, 15 & 16, 2007
"NO MINIMUM PRICE"
SALE STARTS AT 8:30 AM SHARP
WITH RIPPER — KOMATSU D80A-12
WITH BREAKER — KOMATSU PW100 WHEEL EXCAVATOR
MITSUBISHI LG2H
LATE MODEL — ISUZU 10W SELF LOADER
ISUZU 10W CEMENT BULK CARRIER
LATE MODEL — ISUZU FORWARD CARGO TRUCK
LATE MODEL — ISUZU ELF ALUMINUM VAN
SUBARU FORESTER
TOYOTA RAV4
BLDG. 1455 ARGONAUT HIGHWAY, SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE, PHILIPPINES
TEL. NOS: (047) 252-1129 * 252-1155 TO 58 * (02) 920-0810 (02) 711-5270 * CEL NOS: (0917) 7262824 * (0917) 8187000
FAX: (047) 252-5569 EMAIL: uai@uauctioneers.net WEB: www.uauctioneers.net
ORIX METRO

Court orders forfeiture of Erap assets

By TJ Burgonio

THE SANDIGANBAYAN YESTERDAY ORdered a sheriff to confiscate more than P700 million in bank accounts and real estate property owned by former President Joseph Estrada in favor of the government.

Executive Clerk of Court Renato Bocar of the Sandiganbayan Special Division issued a writ of execution to Edgardo Urieta, chief judicial staff officer of the antigraft court.

The order covered the forfeiture of P545,291,000 in the account of the Erap Muslim Foundation, P189,700,000 in the Jose Velarde account, and the house and lot in New Manila, Quezon City, more popularly known as Boracay.

"You are hereby commanded to cause the forfeiture in the favor of the government of the aforementioned amount and property listed in the said dispositive position of the decision," Bocar said in the order.

The writ was meant to satisfy the Sept. 12 judgment of the Sandiganbayan, which convicted the 70-year-old Estrada of plunder in September and ordered some of his assets.

The judgment was not covered by the executive clemency granted by President Macapagal-Arroyo to Estrada, the antigraft court said.

The President granted Estrada a pardon on Oct. 26 in what both camps claimed was a step toward national reconciliation.

Justices won't get past Jinggoy

SEN. JINGGOY ESTRADA YESTERDAY SAID he would block the appointment to the Supreme Court of either of two Sandiganbayan justices who handed down a guilty verdict on his father for plunder.

Estrada made the threat in a privilege speech as the Senate resumed its session yesterday.

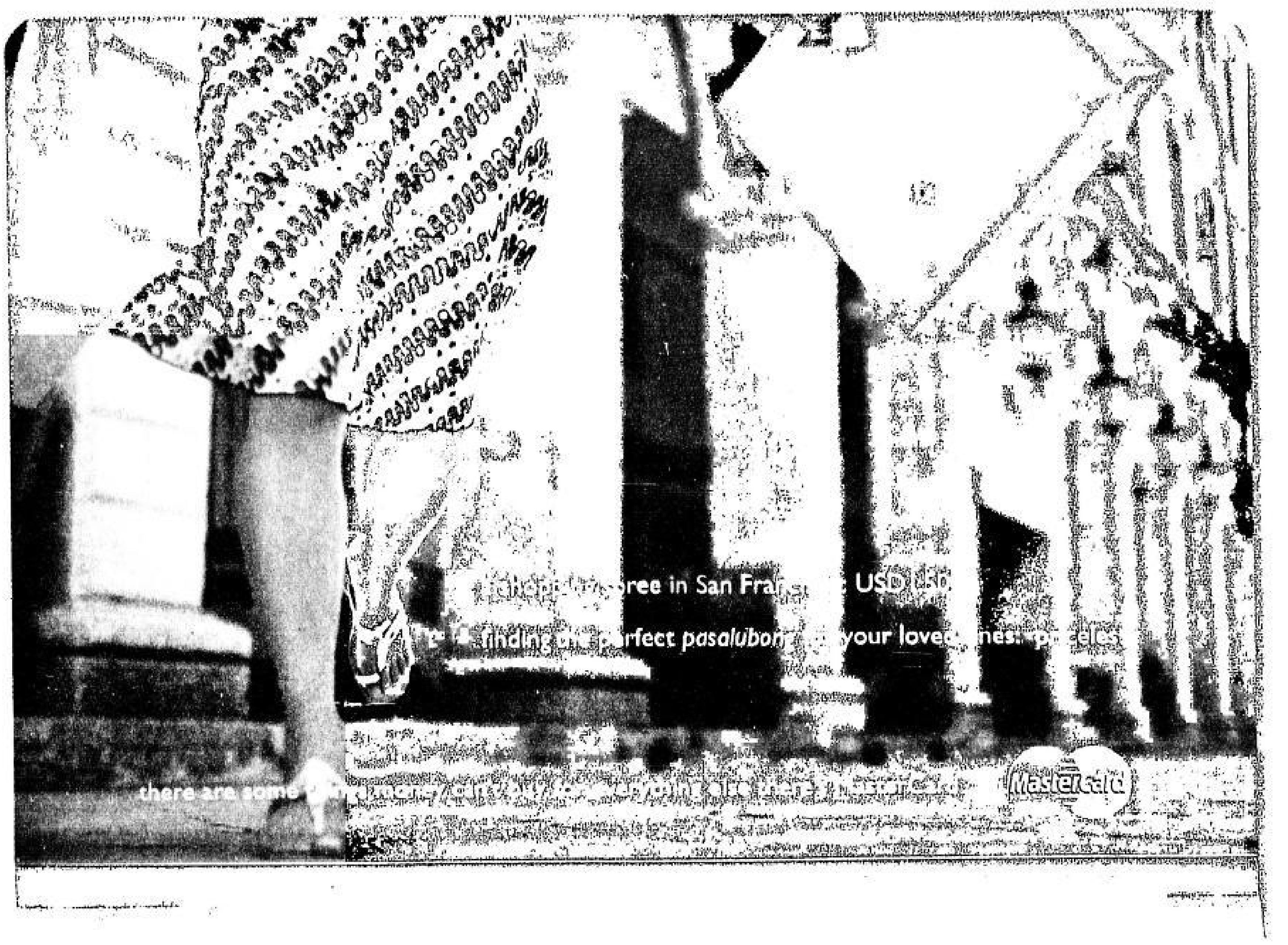
Conspicuously refraining from attacking President Macapagal-Arroyo, Estrada vented his ire on former President Fidel V. Ramos who had openly opposed a pardon for his father, former President Joseph Estrada.

"If it be true that these justices will be rewarded with a position in the Supreme Court, I will oppose this, hopefully, with other righteous citizens who believe that justices must not be subject to bargaining, to wheeling and dealing, or to horse trading. This smacks of a reward for securing a guilty verdict," the senator said.

Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Teresita Leonardo-de Castro and Justice Francisco Villaruz Jr. were placed on the short list of nominees for the Supreme Court vacancy by the Judicial and Bar Council.

The third Sandiganbayan justice in the Estrada trial, Justice Diosdado Peralta, was not nominated. President Macapagal-Arroyo will pick the next high court justice from the list.

Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.


pree in San Fra USD
finding the perfect *pasalubong* your loved ones: priceless
there are some
MasterCard

Use your MasterCard® card when you travel abroad for a chance to win an exciting getaway

Whether you're enjoying shopping in San Francisco or playing golf in Hawaii, traveling with your MasterCard is now even more rewarding. From **October 16 to December 31, 2007**, every USD10 equivalent you spend overseas on your MasterCard automatically earns you one raffle entry to win a vacation in Hong Kong, Singapore or Thailand.

Best of all, triple your chances of winning when you use your Platinum or Titanium MasterCard. No matter where your travels may take you, enjoy the very best of what Platinum and Titanium MasterCard has to offer in dining, travel and entertainment. Visit mastercardmoments.com to find out more about these exclusive privileges.

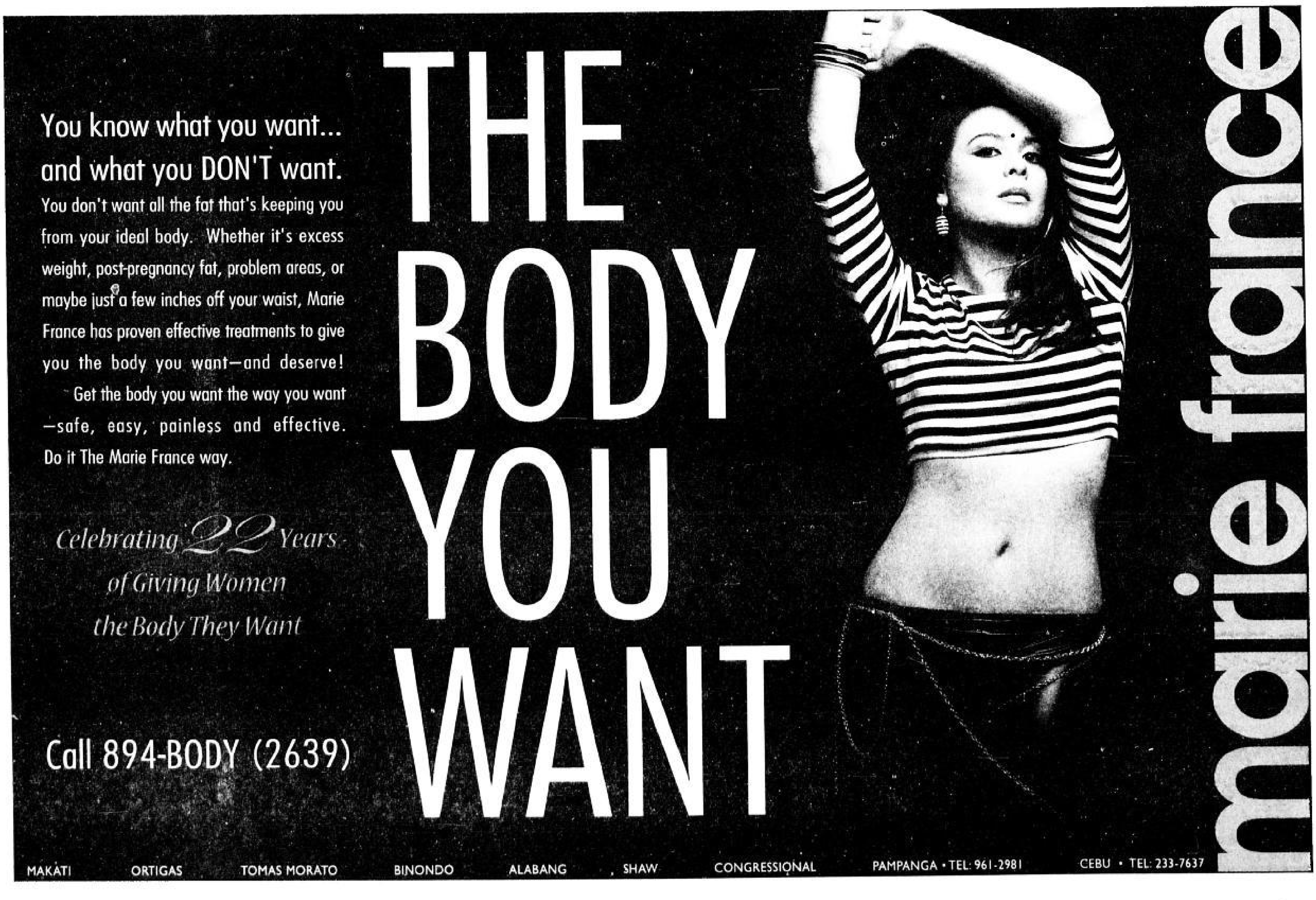
For more details, visit mastercard.com/sea. Terms and conditions apply.

MasterCard

16 06 07

10 OCT 2007

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4634, Series of 2007



You know what you want...
and what you DON'T want.

You don't want all the fat that's keeping you from your ideal body. Whether it's excess weight, post-pregnancy fat, problem areas, or maybe just a few inches off your waist, Marie France has proven effective treatments to give you the body you want—and deserve!

Get the body you want the way you want—safe, easy, painless and effective. Do it The Marie France way.

Celebrating 22 Years of Giving Women the Body They Want

Call 894-BODY (2639)

MAKATI ORTIGAS TOMAS MORATO BINONDO ALABANG SHAW CONGRESSIONAL PAMPANGA • TEL: 961-2981 CEBU • TEL: 233-7637

WWF honors 'green' companies

From page A1

Corp.—at Hotel InterContinental Manila in Makati City on Wednesday night.

"We're proud of those partnerships. We'd like to celebrate them and encourage them as we move on," Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, WWF-Philippines chair, said in his speech. "For us to make a difference, we have to join hands and continue working in any way we can."

Richest barangay

Unknown to some, Barangay San Lorenzo, an enclave of the rich in Makati's commercial district, has decided to measure the energy consumption of its 700 households and business establishments and draw up ways to reduce it.

It's the first local government unit to "actively take a stand against climate change," according to Susan Roxas, head of WWF-Philippines' marketing and corporate relations.

"The homes in Makati have very big carbon footprints—like Americans, if not bigger," she said in an interview.

San Lorenzo covers Legaspi Village, the Makati Commercial Center, Greenbelt and half of Ayala Avenue. It's touted to be the richest barangay in the entire country.

Change your light bulb

According to the WWF, 70 volunteer-households will be tapped for the soft launch of the project this year in the run-up to its formal launch in January.

"We're going to see how much electricity they use and translate this into carbon dioxide. And then we'll tell them how they can reduce energy [consumption]," Roxas said. "First, change your light bulbs, check your air-cons, and if you buy a new appliance, make sure they're energy efficient."

Like San Lorenzo, Sunpower has approached and then forged an agreement with WWF-Philippines to measure the carbon dioxide it generates from its plants manufacturing solar panels in the country.

According to Roxas, a solar panel could cost $1,000 or P43,885.

"Sunpower wants to measure the [amount of] carbon dioxide they're emitting when they make the solar panels. That's wonderful. How many corporations would do that and be honest enough to say it?" she said.

The WWF will be dispatching two experts to Sunpower to study its manufacturing process and to measure the carbon dioxide emitted from the time it extracts silica from the ground until it installs the solar panels, she added.

"Most Filipino corporations are going to have to start doing that because we're a supply chain for the United States and Europe. And [these countries] will start asking about the carbon footprint of every product that they sell to consumers," Roxas said.

Fossil fuels to rice husks

Carbon footprint is the total amount of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases emitted over the full life cycle of a product or service, according to Wikipedia.

Lafarge Philippines, for its part, is slowly shifting from fossil fuels to rice husks as biomass to manufacture cement in its plants in Bulacan and Rizal, according to the WWF-Philippines.

This is on top of its commitment to the WWF to pursue a clean development mechanism project and reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and carbon dioxide by 20 percent per ton of cement from 1990 to 2010 worldwide.

"The six-year partnership with Lafarge has proven to be one of the most significant paths to global solutions for the cement industry," Roxas said.

Lafarge and the WWF-Philippines also jointly commissioned and funded an energy efficiency study, which identifies energy-saving scenarios that could help the country avoid 68.7 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions, and save up to P384 billion.

Carbon neutral bank

HSBC, the first bank in the world to go "carbon-neutral," has integrated "sustainability guidelines" in its global policies, according to the WWF-Philippines.

"HSBC has policies like if they're going to give a loan, they will ask the company what's their environmental impact. And if it's bad environmental impact like mining, coal-fired power plant, they're not going to give you funding because they know you're contributing to climate change," Roxas said.

This could also be monitored through BankTrack, a network of civil society organizations and individuals tracking the operations of the private financial sector and its effect on people and the planet, Roxas said.

SM Investments has partnered with the WWF-Philippines to manage the marine ecosystem in Nasugbu, Batangas, south of Manila, where it has developed a 5,700-hectare property into a resort-residential area.

Ecological footprint

"Hamilo Coast (SM's land development project) is working with the WWF to manage the marine ecosystem in the area, measure the social and ecological impacts, with a commitment to reducing its ecological footprint (human demand on nature)," Roxas said.

Ayala Land Inc. has also taken the same tack of sustainable land use in its real estate development projects in Morong, Bataan, called Anvaya Cove and in Canlubang, Laguna.

"We worked together with Ayala on coastal resource management, GIS (geographic information system) mapping of the area, and measuring the ecological footprint of the project, and the impacts the project will have in the region," Roxas said.

Electronics firm Philips is promoting the use of its energy-efficient compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and light-emitting diodes (LEDs) in Filipino homes.

"All of them show they're committed to people and the earth. They're forward-looking, and these are probably the corporations that will survive in the next century," Roxas said.

---

9 Filipino crew members stage mutiny on ship

By Cynthia D. Balana

NINE FILIPINO CREW MEMBERS OF a Taiwanese fishing vessel yesterday staged a "mutiny," taking over their ship while it was sailing off the African nation of Mauritius in the southwest Indian Ocean, to protest alleged maltreatment by their Taiwanese captain.

Vice President Noli de Castro, presidential adviser on overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), told the INQUIRER in an interview that he was able to speak with the crew's leader, Roderick Sumang, who said they were maltreated by their captain, Jui Yin Huang.

"*Eh masama daw ang ugali ng kapitan at halos hindi na sila pinapakain. Medyo hindi pa daw sila sumusuweldo isang buwan na kaya kinomandir nila ang* vessel. *Parang* mutiny (They said the captain was cruel and hardly fed them. They had not been paid for more than a month so they commandeered the vessel)," De Castro said.

He said the incident was "unfortunate" and advised the crew members not to harm the captain or anyone else on board.

"*Sabi nila eh hindi naman daw nila tinali iyong kapitan. Nakaupo lang daw at pinapakain nila. Kakampi din daw nila iyong iba pang* Vietnamese crew *na nandoon* (They said they did not tie up the captain. He was sitting and they were giving him food. They said the Vietnamese crew members were on their side)," De Castro said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, November 6, 2007
31st Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Rom 12:5-16
Gospel: Luke 14:15-24

One of those at the table said to Jesus, "Happy are those who eat at the banquet in the kingdom of God!"

Jesus replied, "A man once gave a feast and invited many guests. When it was time for the feast he sent his servant to tell those he had invited to come, for everything was ready. But all alike began to make excuses. The first said: 'Please excuse me. I must go and see the piece of land I have just bought.' Another said: 'I am sorry, but I am on my way to try out the five yoke of oxen I have just bought.' Still another said, 'How can I come when I have just married?'

"The servant returned alone and reported this to his master. Upon hearing the account, the master of the house flew into a rage and ordered his servant: 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.'

"The servant reported after a while: 'Sir, your orders have been carried out, but there is still room.' The master said: 'Go out to the highways and country lanes and force people to come in, to make sure my house is full. I tell you, none of those invited will have a morsel of my feast."

Commentary

We are all gifted by God to serve and nurture the Body of Christ, our communities, and the world. We must be sure that our faith grows in the giving of our gifts and that we are loving, just, and sincere in our service and relationships. Do we rejoice and bring others cause to rejoice? Do we help each other stand firm and bless our persecutors and have compassion on all? A short examination of conscience—what will we have to present to the Lord when this year is handed over? Happy are we who eat bread in the kingdom of God here on earth, among the poor and those welcomed so graciously by our God into his feast. We who eat the bread of thanksgiving—Eucharist—must also be sure to share our bread/justice/money/resources with all. And we must be careful that we do not refuse the invitation of God because we are engrossed in work, profit, our personal lives, and what we think is more important right now. Are we going to even taste a morsel of what God would like to feed us?

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications) & http://www.claretphilippines.org (Claretian Missionaries in the Philippines)

AUCTION

www.goindustry.com

LIVE AUCTION SALE

FEED MILL PLANT & SPARES; ELECTRICALS; LABORATORY; MISCELLANEOUS; ETC.

On: Thursday 8th November 2007 at 10:30am
At: Bo. Ugong, Pasig City
Over 400 Lots

Feed Mill Plant and Spares - (2) MANLIFT Elevator Approx. 55m; (9) Bucket Elevators Approx. 55m; SPROUT BAYER Counter Flow Cooler; ALFRA Blending Conveyor; PACKER HOPPER Bagging Line; Soya Bean Hopper; ALFRA Mixing Weigher; CHRONOS Pellet Mill, CHRONOS, MIAG Soya Bean Processor; S.S. Liquid Ingredient Tanks; HENRY SIMON Cyclone; MIAG Degermination Machine; MIAG FORSBERG Dust Separator; MIAG Crusher; 300kg Cap. Material Transfer Weigher; SPROUT BAYER 5000 kg. Capacity Mixer; DALAMATIC Dust Control System

Electricals - MCC Panels; PHILIC 250 kva Oilmersed Transformer; Switch Yard w/ Oil Circuit Breaker 85 kv; Motor Operated Spring Mechanism; Dry Type Transformer; Enclosed Circuit Breaker; Switch Boxes; Magnetic Wires; etc.

Laboratory - IEC Clinical Centrifuge SHIN KW ANG Tablets Hardness Tester; MILTON ROY Spectronic, HOBART Ground Beef Fat Percentage Indicator, AMERICAN Optical Colony Counter, MARCONI Instrument Moisture Meter; MC CLOSKEY Scientific Edible Oil Colorimeter, PILCH Microplate Reader, BUHLER MIAG; FISHER Ph. Meters; JENWAY Ph Meter; GALLENHAMP Oven; Triple Beam Balance; METTLER / GALLENHAMP Digital Scales; ISHITA Computer Weigher

Miscellaneous Equipments - (3) WESCO 40,000 lbs Cap Aluminium Trailers; STANDARD KESSEL / KEWANE Steam Boiler; HANKINSON Screw Type Compressor; S.S. Aerator; Submersible Pumps; Air Compressors; Arc Welders; A large Qty of Bearings; Asstd. Hand Tools; Unused Chain Conveyors; Steel Storage Tanks; Pipework;; Air Conditioners; Steel Racks; Fans; Motors; Gas Tanks; S.S. Canteen Equipment; Canteen Tables; Office Furniture & Equipment; Pallet Jacks; Mill Rollers; Steel Tote Bins; Large Wooden Pallets; etc

On View: Wednesday 7th November 2007- 9am to 5pm
Refundable Deposit: Php 20,000 (upon registration)

TENDER SALE

A Large Quantity of Copper Cable

Deadline of Submission of Bids: Thursday 8th November 2007 - 17:00
Location of Assets: Bo. Ugong, Pasig City
VIEWING STRICTLY BY APPOINTMENT

GoIndustry Henry Butcher
INDUSTRIAL ASSET DISPOSAL AND VALUATION

Contact JENNY, JESSA or DANG
Tel: +63 2 822 5555
manila@goindustry.com

Driverless SUV wins robot car race in US

From page A1

without help from humans for six hours and 100 kilometers around a California ghost town.

Nicknamed Boss, the vehicle from Carnegie Mellon University of Pittsburgh won a $2-million prize in the third such race sponsored by the US Department of Defense, which wants robots eventually to drive military supply vehicles.

The race participants—including station wagons and a huge green military truck all decked out with flashing lights, warning sirens, spinning laser range finders and cameras—looked like mini versions of the "monster" trucks that duel in arenas around the United States.

Only six vehicles out of 11 finalists finished the course in an abandoned military base on Saturday.

The winners were determined overnight based on safety as well as speed. Stanford University, which won a 2005 race, came in second and Virginia Tech finished third.

Historic day

"Yesterday (was) a very historic day," said Tony Tether, director of the Pentagon's research agency, after handing out checks on Sunday as the winning cars, with humans at the wheel, took off for a victory spin.

The effort has brought some of the top talents at US universities and corporations in working together on a big technology challenge. Science fans have followed the robots' progress avidly, but the biggest benefits are in the future.

The US military aims to put robots behind the wheel of supply vehicles—with a goal of making a third of its supply fleet robotic by 2015—to keep soldiers out of danger. And auto makers see intelligent cars helping people drive and eventually taking over the task altogether for better safety and comfort.

Daunting objective

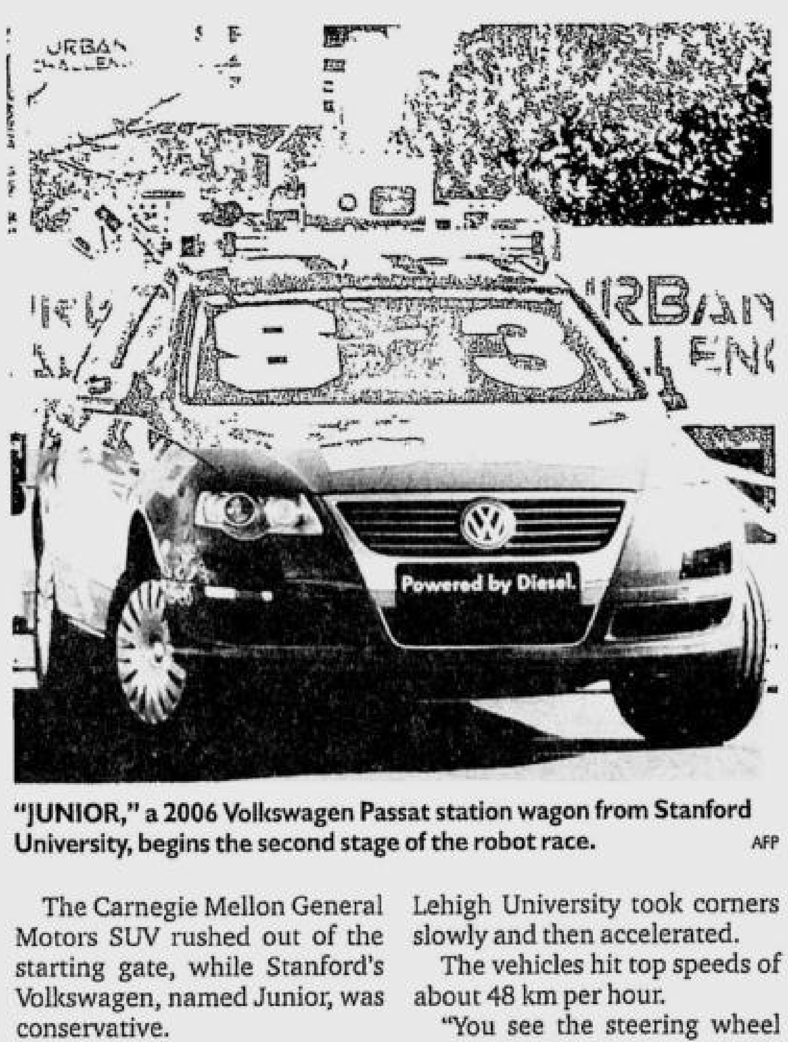
The race's objective—for the vehicles to finish without a dent, following California traffic rules precisely, within six hours—was daunting.

A minor fender bender, the worst accident on Saturday, drew a collective gasp from hundreds of fans drawn to the abandoned base about 130 km northeast of Los Angeles.

Vehicles with hundreds of thousands of lines of computer code for brains appeared to have their own personalities.

URBAN CHALLENGE
FINISH

"BOSS," a Chevrolet Tahoe SUV, heavily modified and robotized by a team from Carnegie Mellon University and General Motors, crosses the finish line of the Darpa urban challenge in Victorville, California. AFP



"JUNIOR," a 2006 Volkswagen Passat station wagon from Stanford University, begins the second stage of the robot race. AFP

The Carnegie Mellon General Motors SUV rushed out of the starting gate, while Stanford's Volkswagen, named Junior, was conservative.

'Soccer mom'

"Boss is kind of like a soccer mom with some place to be—aggressive but safe," said Carnegie team member Bryan Salesky.

The Toyota Prius from the University of Pennsylvania and Lehigh University took corners slowly and then accelerated.

The vehicles hit top speeds of about 48 km per hour.

"You see the steering wheel move, and there's nobody there. It's mind-boggling," said stunt driver Tammie Baird, who drove the streets along with the cars to test their traffic skills.

Using a combination of satellite navigation, cameras, radar and lasers, computer-based artificial intelligence systems determine where the car is and where to go. They then deliver directions to a system which drives the car, from steering to acceleration.

Universities hope their technology will help cut traffic accidents and improve driving.

Harder race

The Pentagon's research arm—the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency known as Darpa—sponsored dirt-road robot races in 2004 and 2005. The 2007 Urban Challenge was much harder, requiring complicated decisions from robots that in previous years simply had to find a course and stay on it.

The defense department gave a little help when needed to robots racing on Saturday. It regularly used remote pause systems to halt vehicles, avoiding traffic jams that could have damaged or confused the cars.

One team was allowed to dig its car out when it took an unanticipated left turn off a dirt road and got stuck, while at least one computer system was restarted during the race.

That did not lessen the cheers from the crowd or enthusiasm from organizers on Sunday.

"To end up today with you guys going into traffic, with not only other people driving, but other robots driving, is just absolutely fantastic," Tether said amid wild applause. *Reuters*

Senate passes cheaper medicines bill

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE SENATE YESterday passed the controversial cheaper medicines bill, which aims to bring down the prices of medicine by amending the Intellectual Property Code to ease patent laws and allow the parallel importation of more affordable medicine from abroad.

By a unanimous vote, the chamber passed Senate Bill 1658 or the Quality Affordable Medicines Act of 2007 on third and final reading yesterday after a monthlong break.

House version

Sen. Manuel Roxas II, primary author of the bill, said they would now await the passage of a similar bill in the House of Representatives and the convening of the bicameral conference committee.

A consolidated final bill will then be presented for plenary approval before being submitted to President Macapagal-Arroyo for signing into law. The President can veto the proposed law.

The version the Senate passed yesterday was almost similar to the one unanimously passed by the chamber in the previous Congress. It did not become a law, however, because the House failed to pass its version of the law.

The House version of the cheaper medicines bill is being tackled on second reading.

More time

"The good thing is that we now have time on our side. The more time the House and Senate have to discuss and reconcile the versions of the bill, the more responsive the bill would be for our countrymen's health needs," Roxas said.

Justifying the need for the bill, Roxas cited a common maintenance drug for diabetes, Daonil, that must be taken twice a day. A 5-mg tablet costs P9.86 in the country but the same tablet can be bought in India for P.80.

Generics industry

Another diabetes treatment drug, Diamicron, costs P11 locally for a 30-mg tablet while the same tablet can be bought for P5 in Pakistan and P7.57 in India.

The law also supports the generics industry by adopting the "early working" principle, disallows the grant of new patents on grounds of "new use," allows for compulsory licensing by the government, and strengthens the Bureau of Food and Drugs' capability to go after fake or substandard medicine.

In an apparent compromise with the House version, the Senate's cheaper medicines bill allows the President to impose drug price ceilings in times of calamity, public health emergencies and "unreasonable price hikes caused by price manipulation."

One of the main provisions of the House version calls for setting up a drug price regulatory body.

From the Ivatans of Batanes
to the Tawi-tawians of Tawi-tawi

Unites the Filipino

JRS EXPRESS
SINCE 1960

Serving the Filipino since 1960
www.jrs-express.com

EAR DIAGNOSTICS INC.
Hearing Health Care Partners
of Siemens Medical Instruments

Ear Diagnostics Hearing Center is an exclusive distributor of
Rexton Hearing Aids " Brandname of Siemens Audiologiushe Technik Germany"

HAVE YOU HEARD?

DIGITAL HEARING AIDS
AT AFFORDABLE PRICES!!!

SAY GOODBYE
TO
HIGH PRICE
HEARING AIDS

Virtually Invisible

BRANCHES:

MANILA
Rm. 505 Don Santiago Bldg.
Taft Ave., In front
of UP-PGH
Tel: (02) 536-7772

CEBU
Rm. 703 Golden Peak Tower
Gorordo Ave., Cor. Escario
Tel No: (032) 233-4388

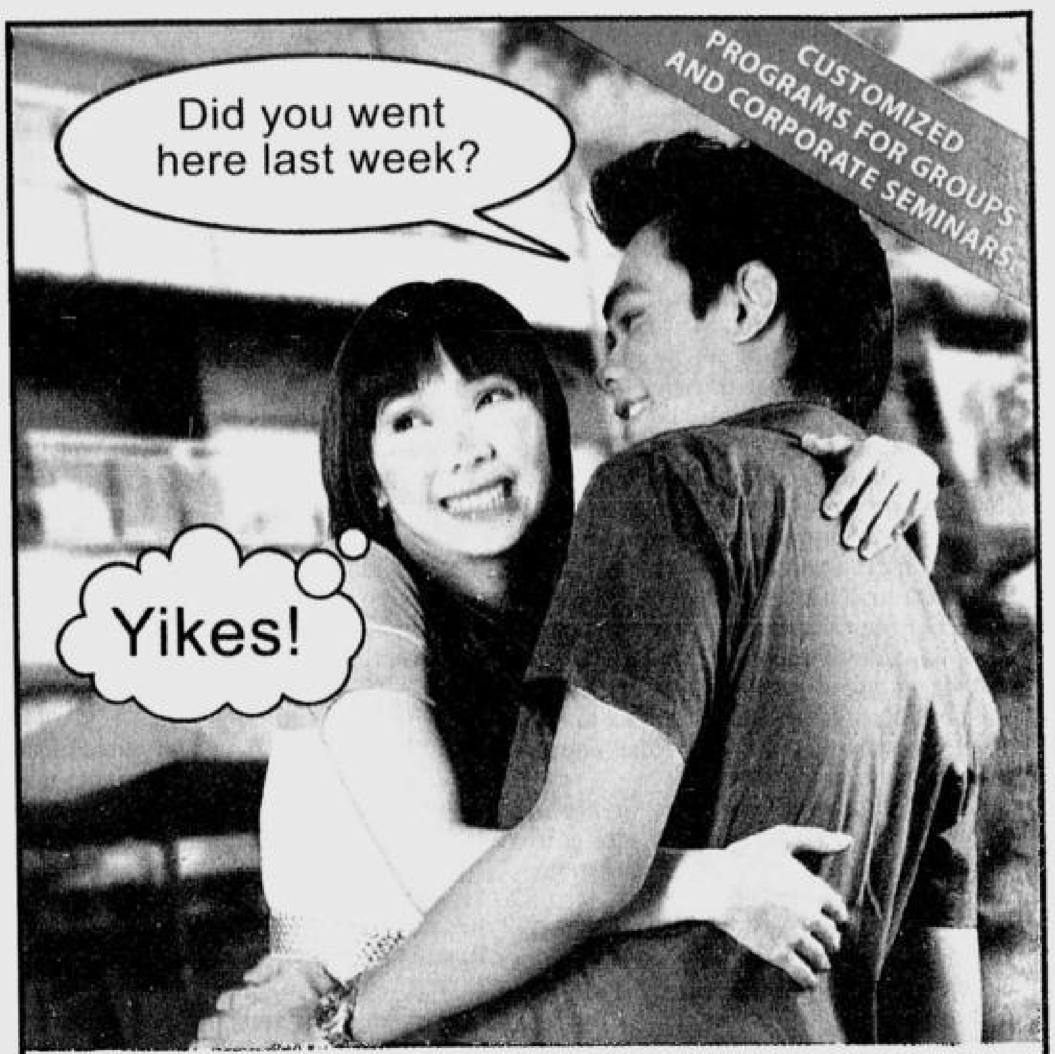
ORTIGAS (OPEN ON SUNDAYS)
Vision & Hearing International
Ground Floor Hi-way 54 Bldg.
Stanford St. cor. EDSA
(beside Edsa Starmall)
Tel No.: (02) 706-2221

ILOILO
Grd Flr. Health Partners
AJL Bldg, Gen. Luna Ibarra St.,
Tel: (033) 335-0566

LAS PIÑAS (OPEN ON SUNDAYS)
LGF SM Southmall
Near Ice Skating Rink
(02) 801-5582

CAGAYAN DE ORO
(0917) 3031565

NABUA CAMARINES SUR


CUSTOMIZED PROGRAMS FOR GROUPS AND CORPORATE SEMINARS
Did you went here last week?
Yikes!

Do people laugh at your English?

THE JOHN ROBERT POWERS ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAM will sharpen your communication skills with a unique blend of teacher-led and computer on line anytime techniques. Fast track packages at special rates are available at all levels at our locations in Makati and Quezon City.
Test yourself with our absolutely free assessment.
English, your future depends upon it. Be understood. By anyone. Anywhere.
Call now!

892 9511 (Makati)
4th Flr., Casmer Bldg. 195 Salcedo St.,
Legaspi Village, Makati 1299

927 0465 (Q.C.)
Ground Flr., Cinderella Bldg.
825 EDSA, Quezon City

John Robert Powers
English Language Program

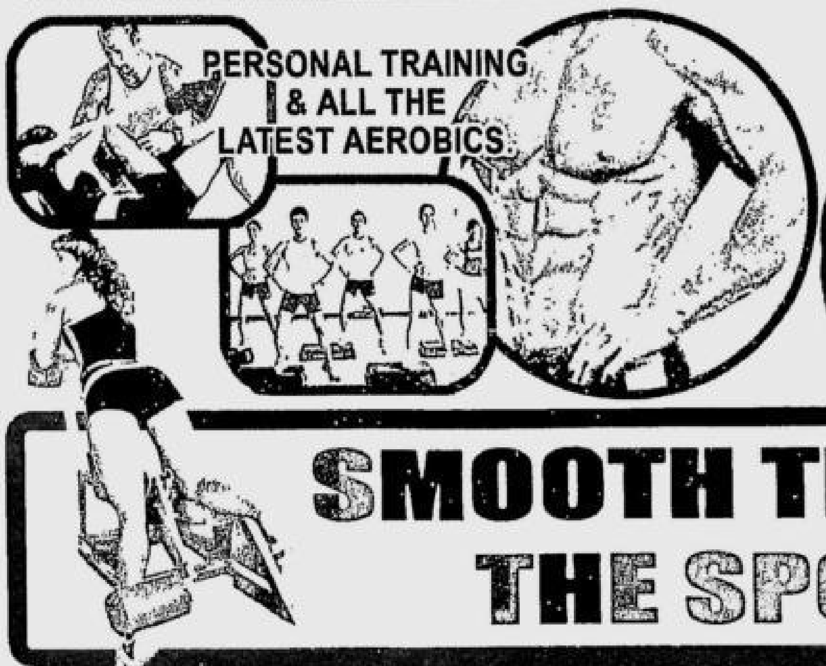
www.johnrobertpowers.com

SLIMMERS WORLD Where figures don't Lie!

BUY 1 month GET 1 month FREE!

NO MONTHLY DUES ON LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP!

BIKINI BODIES 2007
(2nd Runner-up)
WINNER
JOLAIDA NICCOLAI PEÑA
Lost 20 lbs.
UNDER MEDICAL SUPERVISION



BUY 15 treatments GET 15 FREE!

MESO WHITE
MESO REJUVENATION
COSMETIC FILLERS
NUTRACELL-FACE
WART REMOVAL
LASER ACNE TREATMENT
SKIN WHITENING
FACIAL

LASER
HAIR REMOVAL
BEST PRICE
IN THE PHILIPPINES!

Per DTI-NCR Permit #3986 Series of 2007

SMOOTH THOSE LUMPS & BUMPS WITH
THE SPOT REDUCTION SYSTEM!!!

CALL OUR ONE-STOP SUPER CENTERS FOR *FITNESS, SKIN, BODY* AND *FACE.*

FITNESS HOTLINE: 536-3333
SKIN HOTLINE: 525-8771
MOBILE NUMBER: 091-SLIMMERS
(75466377)
www.slimmersworld.com.ph inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

ADRIATICO-MALATE
May
5360619/5259891
0921 4669423

ALABANG
Gemma
8090395/7750587
0918 3912510

BINONDO
Carol
2421312/2420728
0917 8224399

CALOOCAN
Olive
3657653
0915 8804668

CEBU
Juna
231 3254
0915 8797217

GREENHILLS
Jane
7266505/7261526
0917 8261204

H.V.DELA COSTA
Emily
8140138/8140151
0928 2107247

LEGASPI VILL.
Lani
8938935
0928 9719938

MEGAMALL
Ruby
6313869/6377543
0916 2479753

PASAY ROAD
Maan
8871335/8873530
0915 6893088

PASIG
Michelle
6815333/6473816
0928 4763108

SM NORTH
Michelle
9295429/9264215
0905 2690717

SUBIC
Beth
2526514
0928 6712299

Senate passes cheaper medicines bill

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE SENATE YESTERDAY passed the controversial cheaper medicines bill, which aims to bring down the prices of medicine by amending the Intellectual Property Code to ease patent laws and allow the parallel importation of more affordable medicine from abroad.

By a unanimous vote, the chamber passed Senate Bill 1658 or the Quality Affordable Medicines Act of 2007 on third and final reading yesterday after a monthlong break.

House version

Sen. Manuel Roxas II, primary author of the bill, said they would now await the passage of a similar bill in the House of Representatives and the convening of the bicameral conference committee.

A consolidated final bill will then be presented for plenary approval before being submitted to President Macapagal-Arroyo for signing into law. The President can veto the proposed law.

The version the Senate passed yesterday was almost similar to the one unanimously passed by the chamber in the previous Congress. It did not become a law, however, because the House failed to pass its version of the law.

The House version of the cheaper medicines bill is being tackled on second reading.

More time

"The good thing is that we now have time on our side. The more time the House and Senate have to discuss and reconcile the versions of the bill, the more responsive the bill would be for our countrymen's health needs," Roxas said.

Justifying the need for the bill, Roxas cited a common maintenance drug for diabetes, Daonil, that must be taken twice a day. A 5-mg tablet costs P9.86 in the country but the same tablet can be bought in India for P.80.

Generics industry

Another diabetes treatment drug, Diamicron, costs P11 locally for a 30-mg tablet while the same tablet can be bought for P5 in Pakistan and P7.57 in India.

The law also supports the generics industry by adopting the "early working" principle, disallows the grant of new patents on grounds of "new use," allows for compulsory licensing by the government, and strengthens the Bureau of Food and Drugs' capability to go after fake or substandard medicine.

In an apparent compromise with the House version, the Senate's cheaper medicines bill allows the President to impose drug price ceilings in times of calamity, public health emergencies and "unreasonable price hikes caused by price manipulation."

One of the main provisions of the House version calls for setting up a drug price regulatory body.

From the Ivatans of Batanes
to the Tawi-tawians of Tawi-tawi
Unites the Filipino
JRS EXPRESS
SINCE 1960
Serving the Filipino since 1960
www.jrs-express.com

EAR DIAGNOSTICS INC.
Hearing Health Care Partners
of Siemens Medical Instruments

Ear Diagnostics Hearing Center is an exclusive distributor of
Rexton Hearing Aids " Brandname of Siemens Audiologiushe Technik Germany"

HAVE YOU HEARD?

DIGITAL HEARING AIDS
AT AFFORDABLE PRICES!!!

SAY GOODBYE
TO
HIGH PRICE
HEARING AIDS

Virtually Invisible

BRANCHES: –

MANILA
Rm. 505 Don Santiago Bldg.
Taft Ave., In front
of UP-PGH
Tel: (02) 536-7772

CEBU
Rm. 703 Golden Peak Tower
Gorordo Ave., Cor. Escario
Tel No: (032) 233-4388

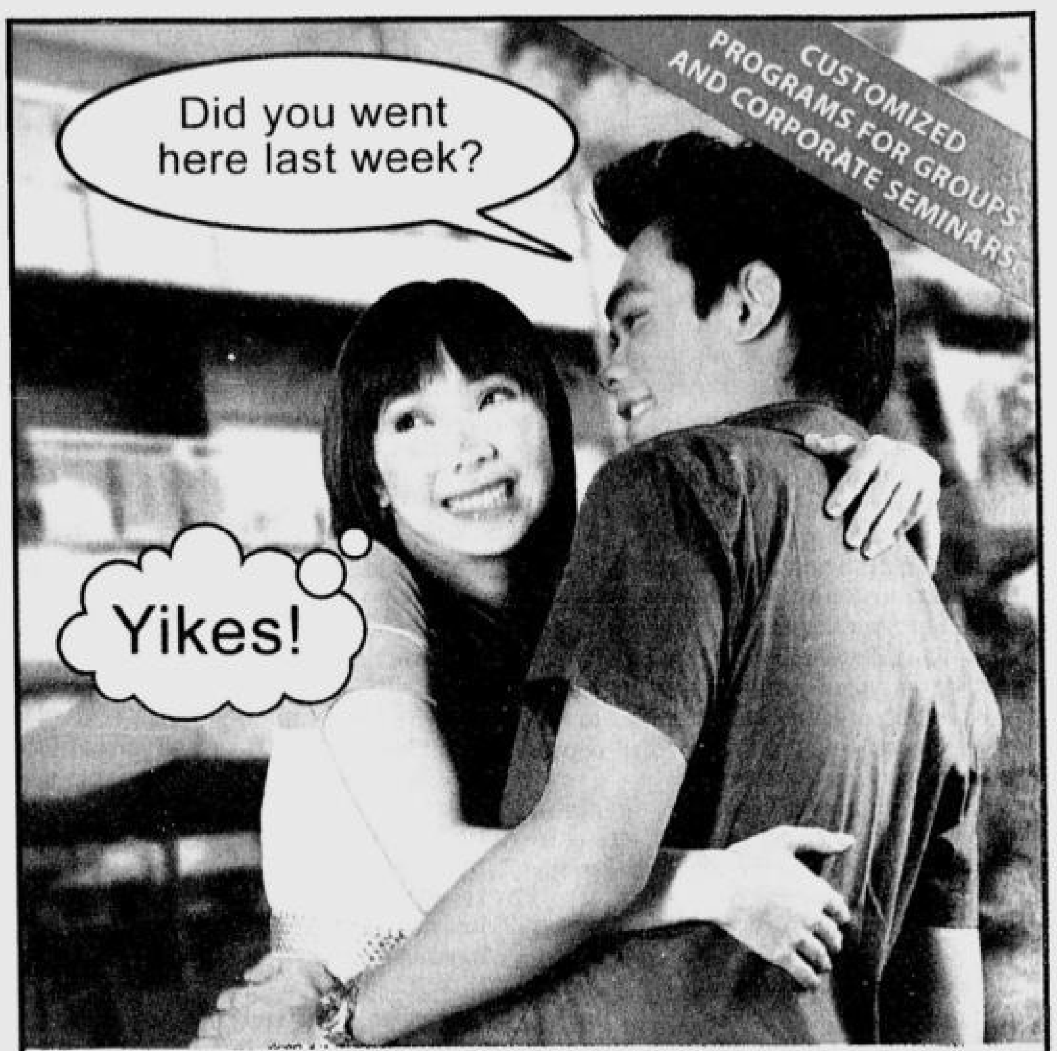
ORTIGAS (OPEN ON SUNDAYS)
Vision & Hearing International
Ground Floor Hi-way 54 Bldg.
Stanford St. cor. EDSA
(beside Edsa Starmall)
Tel No.: (02) 706-2221

ILOILO
Grd Flr. Health Partners
AJL Bldg, Gen. Luna Ibarra St.,
Tel: (033) 335-0566

LAS PIÑAS (OPEN ON SUNDAYS)
LGF SM Southmall
Near Ice Skating Rink
(02) 801-5582

CAGAYAN DE ORO
(0917) 3031565

NABUA CAMARINES SUR


Did you went here last week?
CUSTOMIZED PROGRAMS FOR GROUPS AND CORPORATE SEMINARS
Yikes!

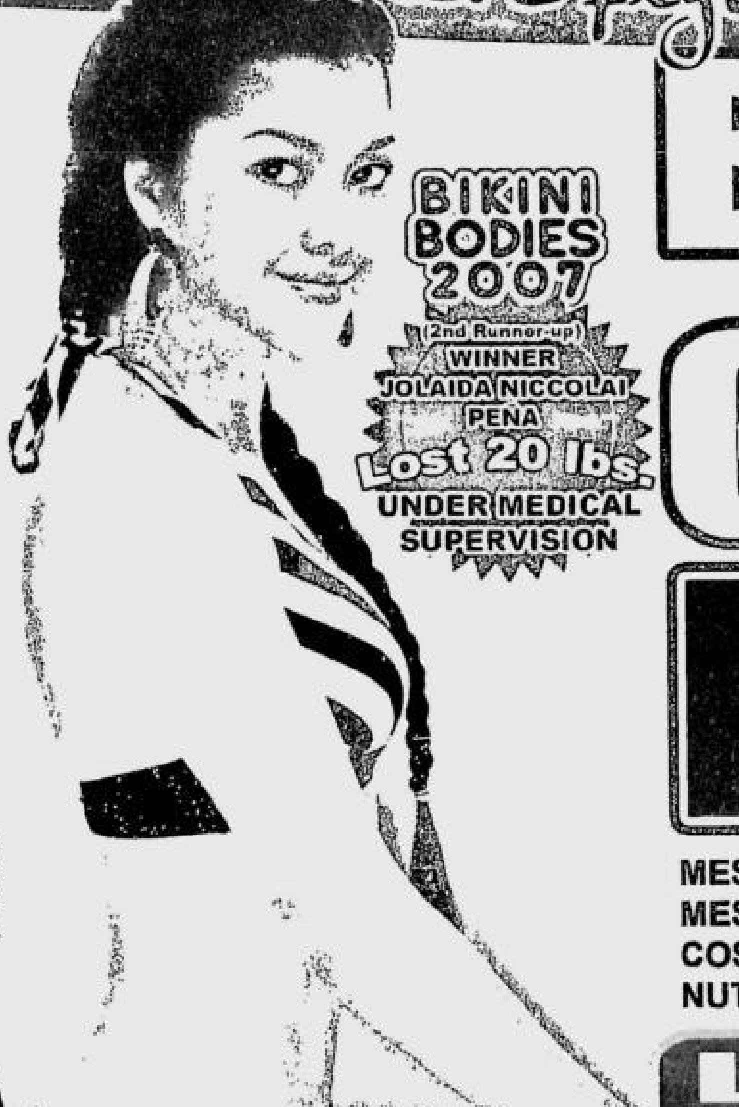
Do people laugh at your English?

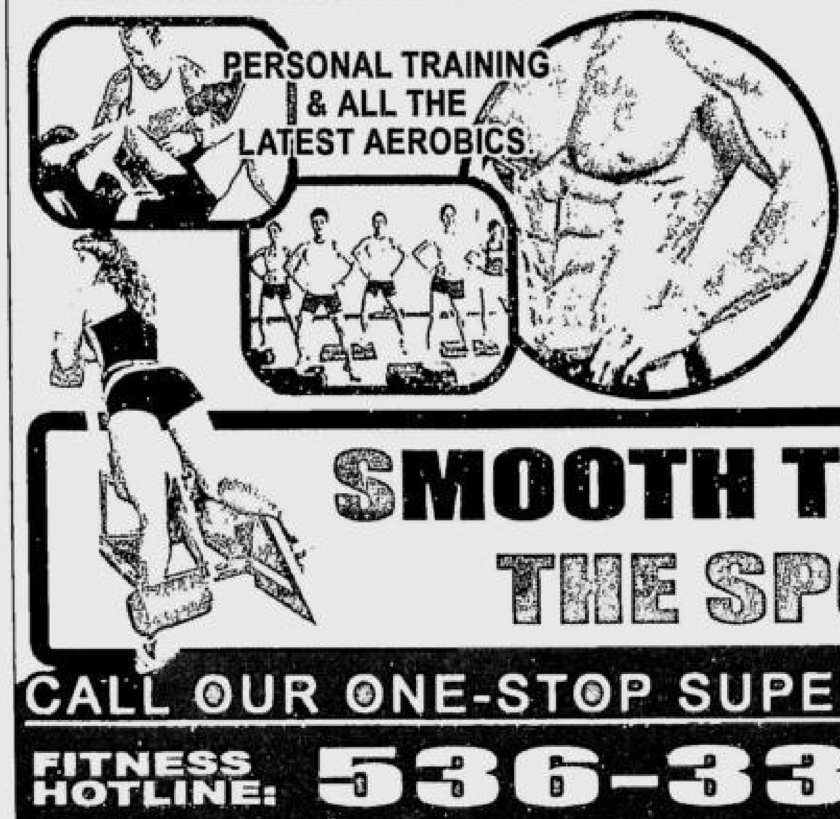
THE JOHN ROBERT POWERS ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAM will sharpen your communication skills with a unique blend of teacher-led and computer on line anytime techniques. Fast track packages at special rates are available at all levels at our locations in Makati and Quezon City.
Test yourself with our absolutely free assessment.
English, your future depends upon it. Be understood. By anyone. Anywhere.
Call now!

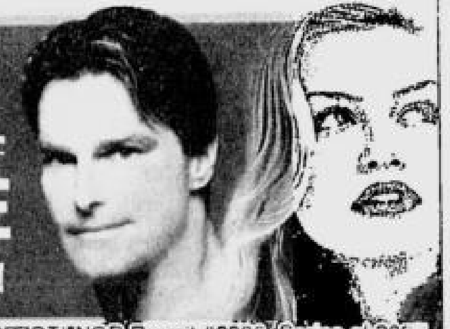
892 9511 (Makati)
4th Flr., Casmer Bldg. 195 Salcedo St.,
Legaspi Village, Makati 1299

927 0465 (Q.C.)
Ground Flr., Cinderella Bldg.
825 EDSA, Quezon City

John Robert Powers
English Language Program
www.johnrobertpowers.com




PERSONAL TRAINING & ALL THE LATEST AEROBICS



SLIMMERS WORLD Where figures don't lie!

BUY 1 month GET 1 month FREE!
NO MONTHLY DUES ON LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP!

BUY 15 treatments GET 15 FREE!

MESO WHITE
MESO REJUVENATION
COSMETIC FILLERS
NUTRACELL-FACE
WART REMOVAL
LASER ACNE TREATMENT
SKIN WHITENING
FACIAL

Per DTI-NCR Permit #3986 Series of 2007

SMOOTH THOSE LUMPS & BUMPS WITH
THE SPOT REDUCTION SYSTEM!!!

CALL OUR ONE-STOP SUPER CENTERS FOR *FITNESS, SKIN, BODY AND FACE.*

FITNESS HOTLINE: 536-3333
SKIN HOTLINE: 525-8771
MOBILE NUMBER: 091-SLIMMERS (75466377)
www.slimmersworld.com.ph inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

ADRIATICO-MALATE May 5360619/5259891 0921 4669423
ALABANG Gemma 8090395/7750587 0918 3912510
BINONDO Carol 2421312/2420728 0917 8224399
CALOOCAN Olive 3657653 0915 8804668
CEBU Juna 2313254 0915 8797217
GREENHILLS Jane 7266505/7261526 0917 8261204
H.V.DELA COSTA Emily 8140138/8140151 0928 2107247
LEGASPI VILL Lani 8938935 0928 9719938
MEGAMALL Ruby 6313869/6377543 0916 2479753
PASAY ROAD Maan 8871335/8873530 0915 6893088
PASIG Michelle 6815333/6473816 0928 4763108
SM NORTH Michelle 9295429/9264215 0905 2690717
SUBIC Beth 2526514 0928 6712299

Storm 'Kabayan' kills 7; state of calamity up

From page A1

The storm, also known by its international name "Peipah," left some 600,000 people without electricity before it began blowing out toward the South China Sea yesterday.

Landslides and flooding caused the closure of 16 national roads in Luzon. Work crews were conducting repair and clearing operations, the Department of Public Works and Highways said.

Isabela and Cagayan appeared to be the hardest-hit provinces, officials said.

Lawyer James Fernandez and his girl friend and fellow lawyer, Annalie Mangalindan, drowned in Pagudpud Bay in Ilocos Norte on Saturday, police said.

Senior Supt. Roman Felix said Fernandez and Mangalindan, both 27, went to a cove popularly called "blue lagoon" in the village of Balaoi for a swim despite warnings from a companion not to proceed because of the strong waves.

The two lawyers drowned at around noon—or a few hours before the storm entered the Philippine area of responsibility.

By that time, the waters along the Luzon coast had become choppy because of the approaching storm, weather bureau experts said.

The blue lagoon is an alternative tourist destination from the more popular Saud Beach in Pagudpud.

Visitors rarely go there because it is less accessible from the town center, but some tourists prefer the place because of its waters' bluish shade and the privacy.

Fernandez was a native of Pinili, Ilocos Norte, while Mangalindan was from Makati City.

5 deaths in Isabela

Mangalindan's body has been recovered but as of yesterday, search teams had failed to locate Fernandez's body, police said.

At least five people died in Isabela, according to the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council (PDCC).

Satur Panisigan, 20, of Quezon town, was electrocuted while Alberto Liban, 68, of Reina Mercedes, died after a wooden pole from the family's collapsing nipa hut hit him.

The PDCC said Francisco Pauig, 60, of San Mariano, drowned while crossing a river, while Janet de los Santos, 28, of Sta. Maria, died due to blood loss after giving birth at the height of storm.

De los Santos' husband failed to take her immediately to a hospital because floods had made the bridge impassable.

State of calamity

The PDCC identified another fatality as Alejandra Bose of Quirino town but did not say how she died.

Rescue teams were looking for Elpidio Balawag, 47, who was reported missing in Tabuk, Kalinga.

On Monday, Isabela was placed under a state of calamity after floods hit several villages and strong winds toppled power lines, causing widespread outages.

Officials of Magat Dam in Ramon town asked residents living near riverbanks to seek high grounds because the dam would release water due to its rising level following heavy rains.

Saturnino Tenedero, Magat Dam instrumentation section chief, said water level at the reservoir was 190.8 meters on Monday morning, up from 188.8 meters recorded at 5 p.m. on Sunday.

Landslides disrupt traffic

In Cagayan, the Cagayan River and its tributaries overflowed rendering the Capatan-Tuguegarao Bridge impassable.

Strong winds damaged two power transformers in Tuguegarao City, causing a power outage on Sunday.

Kalinga still had no electricity on Monday, but power had been restored in Apayao and Ifugao.

The section of Halsema Highway leading to Mt. Province was closed to traffic due to landslides. But the section leading to Benguet's vegetable farms was open on Monday.

Marcos Highway, Naguilian Road and Kennon Road, the major routes to Baguio, were open to traffic on Monday, the DPWH said.

Strong rains fell on Benguet on Sunday and Monday, but water levels at the Binga, Ambuklao and San Roque dams were below their critical levels, the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) said.

Closed roads

An overflowing river and mudslides led to the closure of Saltan Bridge, along Calanan-Pinukpuk-Abbut Road; Ipil section along Balbatan-Pinukpok Road; Bunogon section, Walis section, Pyucan section along Calanan-Mt. Province Boundary Road; and Km. 525 along Tabuk Banaue Road in Kalinga, according to the DPWH.

Flooded roads and landslides caused the closure of the Dantay section of the Baguio-Bontoc Road; Tonglayan section, Purag section, Chatol section along Junction Talubin-Barlig-Natonin-Paracedis-Calaccad Road; and Bayyo section along Mt. Province-Nueva Vizcaya Road in Bontoc.

The DPWH advisory also indicated that the Cauayan-Cabatuan Road in Cagayan Valley had been closed due to fallen electric posts.

Landslides caused the temporary closure of five national roads in Bicol.

Deaths in Cebu

Flash floods caused by four days of rains also hit some areas in Cebu, destroying crops and claiming two lives.

Neil Sanchez, executive director of the Central Visayas Regional Disaster Coordinating Council, said a mother and her child drowned while crossing a river in Balamban town.

The fatalities were identified as Marivic Ybañez, 40, and Maria Rose, 8.

Sanchez said the Ybañezes were trying to cross the river on board a motorcycle when heavy rapids swept them away. Their bodies were found two days later.

On Thursday afternoon, a 10-year-old boy also drowned when he was swept away by raging waters of a river in Balamban.

DSWD moves into action

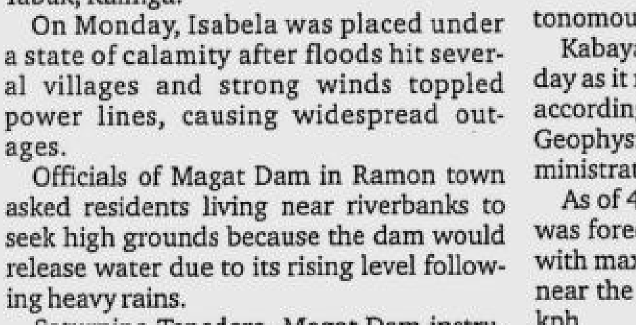
The Department of Social Welfare and Development has "prepositioned" funds and relief goods worth P7.9 million for the Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog and the Cordillera Autonomous Region.

Kabayan maintained its strength yesterday as it moved away from northern Luzon, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

As of 4 p.m. yesterday, the storm's center was forecast at 150 km west of Laoag City, with maximum sustained winds of 105 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 135 kph.

The storm was forecast to leave the Philippines early this afternoon.

Pagasa also lowered all storm signals in the country but warned of continuing rains in the next few days. *With reports from Villamor Visaya Jr., Estanislao Caldez, Cristina Arzadon, and Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon; Jolene R. Bulambot Inquirer Visayas; and Margaux C. Ortiz, Nikko Dizon and Jerome Aning in Manila*



We are producing and selling the Noni product made from the Noni fruit from the Philippines.

仲善 ナカゼン

1190 Chinen Aza Chinen
Nanjo City, Okinawa, Japan 901-1513
Tel (098) 949-1188 Fax (098) 949-1693
www.nakazen.co.jp

Nakazen supports the 3rd Okinawa International Conference on Longevity

Theme: Longevity, Public Health and Policy

8-10 November 2007, Manila Hotel, Centennial Hall

A joint international conference of the PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF GERIATRIC MEDICINE (PSGM) and the OKINAWA GERONTOLOGY INSTITUTE (OGI) in cooperation with the ASIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT POLICY CENTER (AIMPC)

Day 1: Moving the Elderly Towards the 21st Century (PSGM)
Day 2: The Science and Secrets of Okinawa Longevity (OGI)
Day 3: Public Policy Towards Longevity and Well-being (AIM Policy Center)

If you're interested in healthy aging and longevity, and would like to register, please email us.

Okinawa Gerontology Institute Research on Healthy Aging & Longevity
Asian Institute of Management POLICY CENTER
Philippine Society of Geriatric Medicine

http://www.okinawahealthylongevity.org email: okinawalongevity@yahoo.com

PNP turns to court as final arbiter of Glorietta blast

From page A1

ence in Camp Crame.

"Our (investigation) is official ... It cannot be Ayala's investigation," he said.

Once the PNP completes its probe, it will file the charges against those responsible, according to Barias.

"Somebody has to be accountable for the deaths of the 11 people. They will either be terrorists or other personalities," he said.

Barias said it would be up to the courts to uphold or reject the PNP findings.

He said lawyers of whoever the PNP would find responsible could question the credibility of its witnesses, investigators and pieces of evidence.

"That (court) is the proper forum and that is precisely the reason why it's taking us a long time to investigate this case because we want to be sure we really have a case and that our case can be won," the NCRPO chief said.

Explore other angles

The other day, ALI president Jaime Ayala urged the police to explore other angles in the blast.

Barias said the PNP was not out to pick a fight with ALI, one of the country's largest real estate developers.

"The statement of Ayala can assist us in our investigation. So it's not one against the other. We can even be complementary in our investigation. There is no reason to fight. Both are searching for the truth," he said.

Barias said the police were open to other theories as the formal investigation had not ended. "We are not ruling out anything until we come up with the final report," he said.

He said police investigators still wanted to know what sparked the gases in the basement. "At this time we cannot conclude our findings."

He said police could finish their probe after another week.

No access to basement

ALI had provided the PNP with a copy of the findings of foreign experts hired by the company to look into the deadly blast. Barias said the PNP would use ALI's findings as "input in our investigation."

But he noted that experts hired by ALI were not able to enter the basement, where police think the blast originated.

PNP Director General Avelino Razon (center) inspects the Glorietta 2 blast site.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Experts from the US Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Australian Federal Police had determined that the blast was not caused by a bomb.

Form fact-finding commission

In the face of conflicting ALI and PNP findings, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay said it was high time for the private sector to step in.

He asked businessmen and other individuals with no vested interests to form a fact-finding body that would determine the cause of the blast.

This, he said, would dispel doubts on the credibility of the investigating parties.

The divergent directions that ALI's and the police's probes were taking would only confuse the public, thus putting to question the integrity of the official findings, he said.

Binay's proposal was for the formation of two bodies—the first to determine the origin of the blast and the second to assess the adequacy of government response.

Barias said members of the Inter-Agency Arson Task Force would return to the mall's basement to look for more clues on the explosion.

Members of the PNP Bomb Data Center (PBDC) went to the basement during the weekend to look for clues that the explosion might have been caused by a bomb.

Barias said he had yet to receive a report from the PBDC, which had visited the basement thrice, on the result of its weekend visit.

"What I'm very sure is they (PBDC) have not found any traces or any part of the bomb as of this time," he said.

On ALI's statement that the pieces of equipment, including a busted fuse box of a jack pump, brought from the basement by the PNP on Saturday were old, Barias said these would still have to be tested by the National Bureau of Investigation.

Barias said investigators were coordinating with officials of the Makati Supermarket to determine who had control over the basement. Police said ALI had told investigators that the supermarket was renting the basement.

He also said the PNP just learned that Makati Supermarket had hired a company, which he identified as Marchem, to conduct repair and maintenance in the basement.

Trillanes witness

Barias rejected statements of a witness presented by detained Sen. Antonio Trillanes, a certain Roland Ramos alias Abdul Rakman, that National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales had something to do with the blast.

Barias said the witness should present "something more concrete," like who planted the bomb, and when and where it was placed.

He said the PNP was leaving it to the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) to investigate Trillanes' claim.

The CIDG chief, Director Edgardo Doromal, told the INQUIRER that his unit would try to talk to Trillianes on Ramos' claims.

NPC mural ruined, says Malang

From page A1

ment on a page being read by the central figure on the mural.

The statement was painted over with a monster-bird, and the *alibata* K on the arm of the figure of Andres Bonifacio was changed into a pierced heart. The *alibata* is the native Filipino alphabet.

Other alterations were the changes on the faces of Edita Burgos and her missing son Jonas and replacing the headline of the newspaper that Jose Rizal was holding, "Press Freedom Fighter's Son Abducted" with "Press Freedom Fight Is On."

The mural was unveiled by President Macapagal-Arroyo on the press club's 55th founding anniversary on Oct. 26.

A day before the unveiling, the Presidential Security Group inspected the painting and questioned certain "leftist marks," prompting the NPC president, Roy Mabasa, to tap another artist to retouch the mural overnight.

Unauthorized

Malang explained that an artist was usually commissioned by a person or group because of his reputation to create lasting pieces of art. He said not one of his patrons ever asked him to change anything in his work.

"I think because of the unauthorized alterations, the mural is now ruined. That's why the artists are angry," Malang said, adding that the outcome of an alteration should also be considered.

"Personally, I won't have any problem if my work got altered and it turned out to be better, or if the one who altered it is a greater artist, such as (the late National Artist awardee for visual arts Vicente) Manansala," he said.

Malang, like Manansala, is famous for his neo-realistic styles.

The two, along with other National Artists Hernando Ocampo and Cesar Legaspi, are founders of the Saturday Group of Artists, which today provides counsel and inspiration to a new generation of artists.

Meeting with Angono group

Mabasa yesterday said the NPC would insist on revisions of several details in the press freedom mural.

He said he would be meeting with a representative of the Neo-Angono Artists Collective on Thursday to discuss the alterations.

"I still believe in the power of dialogue, that we could discuss this over a cup of coffee. We'll accommodate them. If in our debate they can justify why this or that detail was put in the mural, then there's no problem with me with that detail being retained," Mabasa told the INQUIRER.

'Burn it'

He expressed regret over his statements made in earlier radio and television interviews that the NPC, as the one that commissioned the mural for the sum of P900,000, "can do anything with it, even burn it."

"It was uttered out of shock and exasperation because the NPC was being accused of censorship and that we were trying to please the President, when we only wanted to keep the NPC's image apolitical," he said.

Mabasa also appealed to well-known visual artists who attacked the "censorship" to learn the whole story first before commenting on the controversy.

He said the alterations, done in acrylic, were temporary and that the NPC would still seek permission from the artists to have the changes made permanent.

"We want them to come back and do the changes," he said.

Mabasa recounted that before the mural was painted, he and the other NPC officials held a series of meetings with the artists and he had "very vivid" recollections of the artists agreeing with the club that the problems of killings and libel would not be highlighted in the mural and that no political statements would be made.

He recalled that artists, who did the project in Angono, were to send the club snippets of the mural via e-mail from time to time.

"The details in the snippets were not very clear and we could not distinguish details but we did not mind because we knew we had an understanding that there would be no deviation from the original concept," Mabasa said.

Shocked

Mabasa said he was not at the NPC building in Intramuros, Manila, when the mural was installed on Oct. 24. When he saw the work the following day, which was the eve of the President's visit, he said he was shocked.

"There were faces that were identifiable. And there were details whose symbolism was very obvious. It's not like in 'The Da Vinci Code,' you know, their meanings could be easily ascertained," he said.

He said there were even words in the mural that attacked the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo.

"We want the ideas of the press club to be projected, not their (artists') minds on the mural," he said. "If their agenda is to be known at the expense of the NPC, they have succeeded."

Dilemma

The club, he said, was placed in a dilemma because the artists "rejected" his plea to send even one of them to Manila to do the retouching on the eve of the President's visit.

"We offered to fetch them from Angono and to accommodate them here in Manila, but they rejected our appeal. They could not understand why we wanted to do the changes," Mabasa said.

"We were trapped and we panicked so we had an artist come over and do the retouching at the 11th hour," he said.

House gives education P6B more

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS added P6.436 billion to the outlay for education in the proposed P1.227-trillion national budget for next year.

Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, chair of the committee on appropriations, said the general appropriations bill is expected to be approved on third and final reading on Nov. 13, in time for the December deadline for the passage of the national budget by both chambers of Congress.

With the increase, the proposed budget for education will amount to P152.4 billion in 2008, up from the original allocation of P145.975 billion.

The P6.436 billion was sourced from the P30.1 billion slashed from debt payments and government projects like the LRT Line 1 South and slow-moving DWPH and government corporation projects.

Of the additional amount, the Department of Education stands to receive P5.273 billion. The rest of the increase or P1.162 billion would go to state universities and colleges.

The additional amount for state universities and colleges would go to scholarship grants (P524 million), capital outlay (P587 million) and maintenance and other operating expenses (P51 million).

Of DepEd's P5.273 additional allocation, P1.72 billion will be used for the construction and rehabilitation of school buildings, a nagging problem.

Another P1.06 billion will be set aside for the hiring of more teachers, including non-teaching personnel, P500 million for school furniture and P200 million for medical services.

An additional P540 million will be used to address unpaid teachers' benefits, P200 million for distance education programs in public secondary schools and P53.3 million for operational expenses of secondary schools.

Another P1 billion more will be spent on the government's preschool education program in public schools.

With the increase, the proposed budget for public preschool education now totals P3 billion for next year.

Lagman said the lower house was putting a premium on preschools to "equalize opportunities" for pupils from poor families who traditionally could not afford it unlike their moneyed counterparts.

As a result, he said there has been an imbalance in their know-how once they reach the elementary grades. *With a report from Jaymee T. Gamil, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

BASTA TUBO i-MOLDEX MO!
sales@moldex.com.ph
373-1000 • 0918-8028888

Most Complete Line of Cleaning Equipment
P3,700
Commando 707
1500 PSI/2.5 HP
With Complete Accessories
High Pressure Washer For Personal Use
ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT for CARWASH BUSINESS
Now Only P39,500
AR-2200
2200 PSI, Pro.
TRX
1900 PSI, Pro
Golden Jet
2900 PSI, 7.2 KW, Pro.
Idrolava
1200 W, Pro
Guaranteed The Lowest Price In The Market
INDUSTRIAL HIGH PRESSURE WASHER UP TO 7000 PSI AVAILABLE
Major Credit Cards Accepted. Deferred Payments Up To 24 Mos.
Exclusively Distributed by
CLEANCITY COMMERCIAL INCORPORATED
MAIN: 1851 M. OROSA ST., MALATE, MLA.
Tel. Nos.: 5245290 • 5244328 • 5240529
Sun Cellular: 0922-8825326 • 0917-7896670
646 QUEZON AVE. Tel. 7490581 • 7493709

Airports hike service, security

AFTER THE ALL SAINTS' DAY HOLIDAY, the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa) has decided to keep the security and passenger assistance set-up it had put in place at air terminals in the metropolis.

Miaa operations chief Octavio Lina, in a recent interview, said: "We had set up an oplan [operation plan] for Nov. 1 [and] we will maintain that."

Instead of being temporary, security and passenger assistance services were made available round the clock, airport officials said, in anticipation of heavier travel days this Christmas season.

As in past peak travel seasons, Miaa instituted a security and passenger assistance plan for the expected rise in passenger volume during the Nov. 1 holiday.

The plan included increasing the number of entrances to the airport at peak hours and faster screening at security checks. Surveillance of the terminals was also intensified.

The arrangement, Lina said, would become "a continuing procedure."

"Our medical personnel will be on standby at the terminals, there will be assistance counters of public affairs officers, police assistance desks, personnel from the operations division will be on call 24 hours and we will cancel the leaves and days off of personnel during peak days," he said. *Tarra Quismundo*

Recruiters slam POEA 'intrusion'

PREDATORY AND TOTALLY UNFAIR.

This was how labor recruitment agencies in the Philippines described the latest initiative of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) to directly recruit workers in behalf of foreign governments.

The POEA recently signed a new agreement with labor officials of the United Arab Emirates to hire workers under a government-to-government arrangement.

Philippine Association of Service Exporters Inc. (PASEI) president Victor Fernandez criticized the latest foray of the POEA into the domain of private recruitment agencies as "predatory and totally unfair."

"The POEA should not be the administrator and competitor at the same time. While it enforces rules for the private sector, it also issues new rules for the government to participate in the recruitment of workers," Fernandez said.

Fernandez said the government was misleading the private sector by issuing new licenses to those who want to invest in the recruitment business.

"However, the government also competes for the same markets with the private agencies," Fernandez, head of the 700-member organization which has been in the industry for the past 30 years, said.

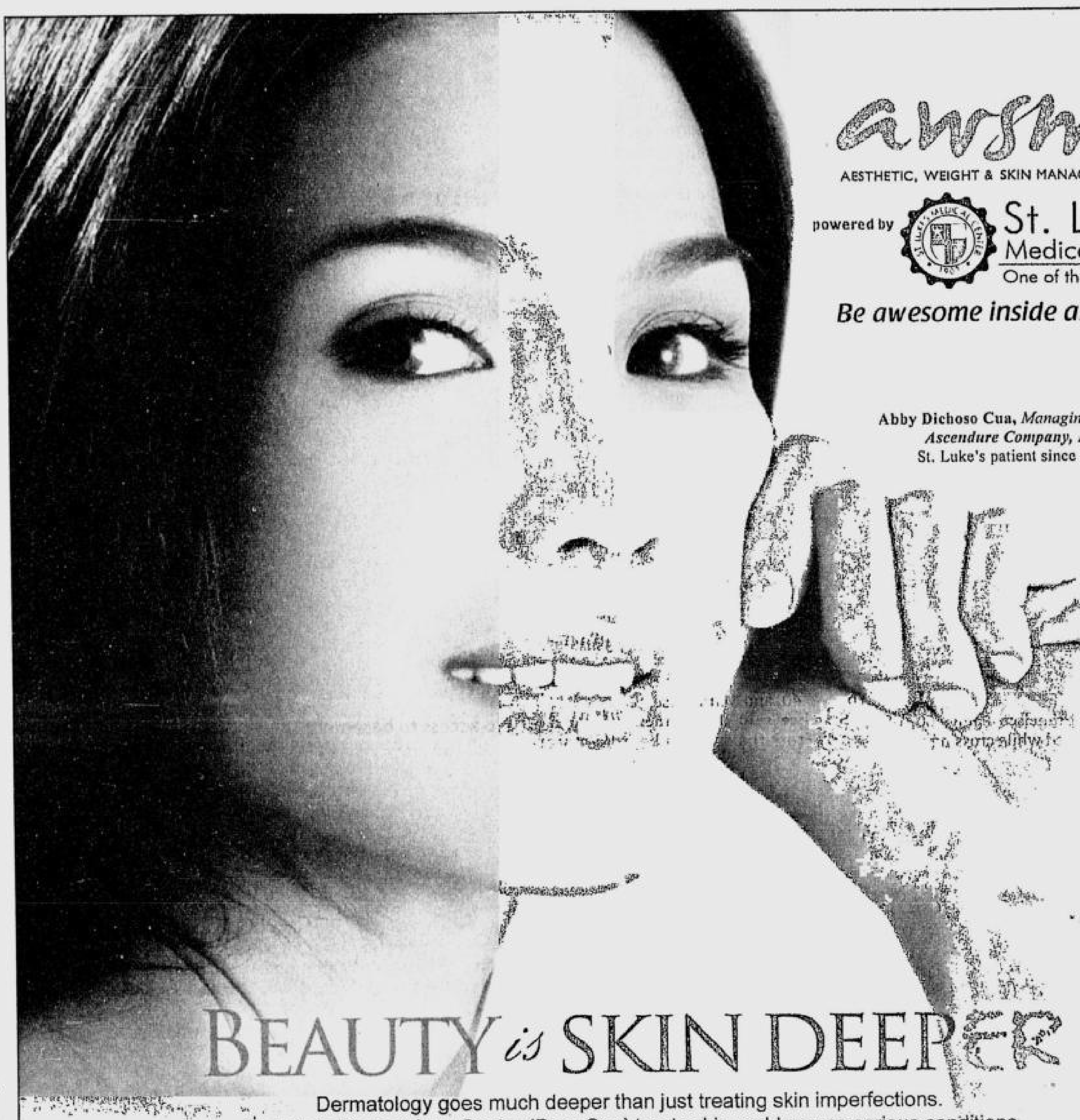
Pilipino Manpower Agencies Accredited to Taiwan (PILMAT) president Jackson Gan likewise opposed POEA's incursion into the large UAE market, which comprises Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

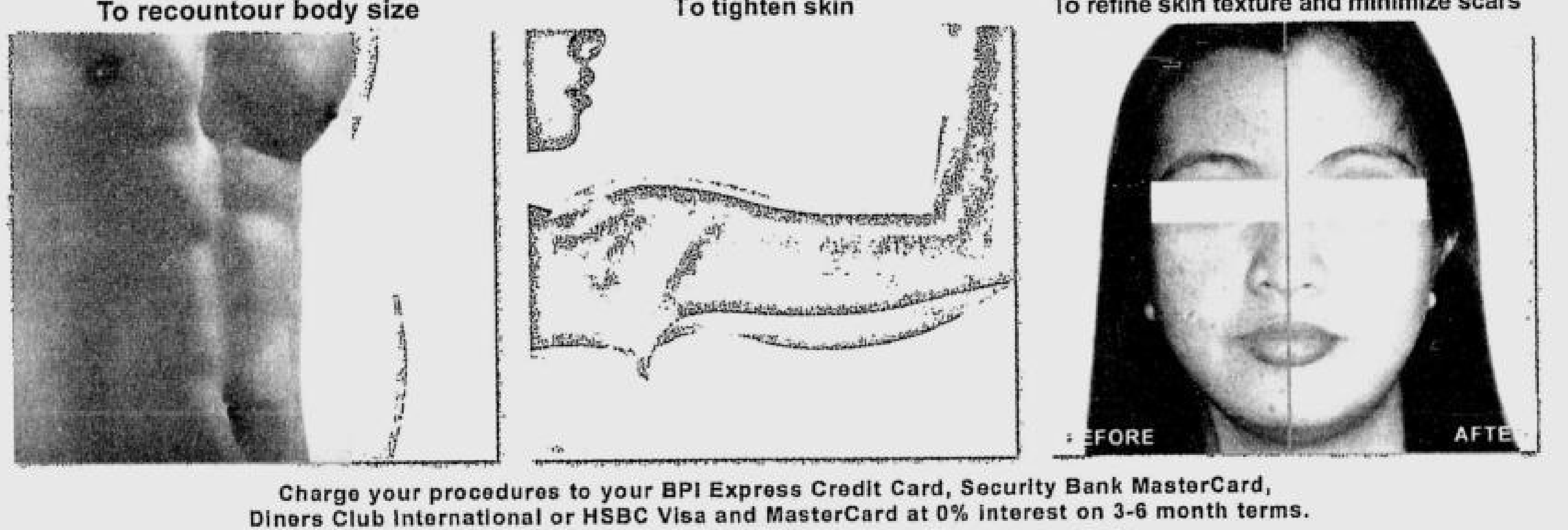
"POEA does not have the necessary manpower and expertise to handle the recruitment of over 100,000 workers deployed annually to Dubai," Gan said.

"After UAE, there are a few more countries like Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and Yemen which are also experiencing a construction boom. Will the POEA also take over those markets?" Gan pointed out.

Fernandez said overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) deployed by the government had no grievance mechanisms in place, stressing that the workers would not be able to sue the POEA.

"This is now the situation happening in South Korea," Fernandez said. *Margaux C. Ortiz*


awsm!
AESTHETIC, WEIGHT & SKIN MANAGEMENT
powered by St. Luke's Medical Center
One of the world's best
Be awesome inside and out
Abby Dichoso Cua, *Managing Director*
Ascendure Company, Inc.
St. Luke's patient since 2000
BEAUTY *is* SKIN DEEPER
Dermatology goes much deeper than just treating skin imperfections.
St. Luke's Dermatology Center (DermCen) treats skin problems as serious conditions that require utmost medical attention. DermCen provides diagnostic and therapeutic services with state-of-the-art technology in the hands of internationally-trained dermatologists.
Its services range from acne treatment to skin sculpting to skin cancer management.
SAFETY No.1 PRIORITY
Benefits of TENOR RF™ Treatment
St. Luke's DermCen is the only dermatology center in the country that uses the newest RF Pixel to tighten skin, refine skin texture and minimize scars. The US FDA-approved TENOR RF™ has three capabilities:
Unipolar RF
To recountour body size
Bipolar RF
To tighten skin
RF Pixel
To refine skin texture and minimize scars



Charge your procedures to your BPI Express Credit Card, Security Bank MasterCard, Diners Club International or HSBC Visa and MasterCard at 0% interest on 3-6 month terms.
Promo runs until 18 November 2007. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-0711. Series of 2007.
PHOTODERMATOLOGY: UVA* Narrow UVB • LASER: Pulsed Dye Laser*QsNdYAG Pigment Laser*Laser Hair Removal
• DERMATOHISTOPATHOLOGY: Biopsy reading*Immunofluorescence*Special Stains • MOHS MICROGRAPHIC SURGERY
• HAIR: Hair transplant*DCP application*DCP Skin test • ENVIRONMENTAL DERMATOLOGY: Patch Test*Photo Patch Testing
Call 723-0101/0301 ext 5208
THE TENOR RF™ OFFER
50% discount on the 4th session
Promo runs from October 15 to December 31, 2007.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-0841. Series of 2007.
JOINT COMMISSION INTERNATIONAL QUALITY APPROVAL
An International Affiliate Of:
New York-Presbyterian Hospital
Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons
Weill Cornell Medical College of Cornell University
and
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
VOTED BY CONSUMERS Reader's TRUSTED BRAND 2007 PHILIPPINES GOLD
279 E. Rodriguez Sr. Blvd., Quezon City 1102, Philippines • Trunkline: 723-0101/0301 • Email: info@stluke.com.ph • Website: www.stluke.com.ph

41 murder cases now in court—DILG

POLICE HAVE SOLVED LESS than half of the cases related to the killing of militants and journalists, statistics from the Department of the Interior and Local Government showed.

But the agency, in a statement, noted that at least 25 suspects in the killing of militants and journalists were already behind bars, belying claims by militant groups that the government had not done anything to stop the murders.

The DILG said a total of 41 cases had been lodged in court against suspects in the killings of activists.

Task Force Usig of the Philippine National Police (PNP) has documented the killings of 116 activists and 27 journalists around the country since 2001 when President Macapagal-Arroyo assumed office.

Police Director Jefferson Soriano, the Task Force Usig commander, said among those behind bars were those convicted of killing journalist Marlene Esperat, identified as Estanislao Bismanos, Jerry Cabayag and Randy Grecia.

The three are serving their sentences at the Tacurong City Jail in Sultan Kudarat.

Held in various jails

PO1 Guillermo Wapile, convicted of killing journalist Edgar Damalerio, is also at the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa, Soriano said.

Other suspects in the killing of journalists are now detained in various jails across the country, DILG said.

In the killing of militants, the report noted that suspects in various cases were detained in jails in La Castellana, Negros Occidental; Kananga, Leyte; Tayug, Pangasinan; Quezon City, and Ma-a, Davao City, among other places. *Alcuin Papa*

Leftists rattle Batasan gate

SOME 300 MEMBERS OF LEFTIST GROUPS yesterday rattled the gates of the Batasan complex in Quezon City in a protest seeking President Macapagal-Arroyo's accountability for all her alleged "misdeeds."

The demonstration was called to support the filing by the United Opposition of a supplemental complaint to strengthen a "weak" impeachment case against Ms Arroyo filed by lawyer Roel Pulido.

The groups were led by a protester wearing a mask representing Ms Arroyo and toting a paper bag filled with play money and marked "To: Governors, From: Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Re: Bribe money, Cheers."

Most of the protesters carried paper bags, apparently poking fun at the alleged distribution of cash gifts to local government officials in Malacañang last month. One group carried a Christmas tree with controversies against the President dangling as ornaments from its branches.

Bagong Alyansang Makabayan secretary general Renato Reyes told the INQUIRER that the groups were supporting efforts to impeach the President "whether it is the original complaint or the amended impeachment complaint, as long as she is held accountable." *Jeannette I. Andrade*

IMPEACH GLORIA!
IMPEACH GLORIA NOW!
IMPEACH GLORIA NOW!!!
GLORIA

ACTIVISTS wear masks during a rally outside the House of Representatives in Quezon City, where opposition groups filed two impeachment complaints against President Macapagal-Arroyo. JOAN BONDOC

US aid tied to RP . . .

From page A1

had a disturbing record of extrajudicial or "targeted killings."

The Arroyo administration has complied with the US funding requirements, Romulo said.

"The three requirements for us to be given this additional amount are already part of our overall and comprehensive approach to the issue of politically motivated killings," he said.

3-fold increase

The additional $2-million contingent outlay would be over and above the $30-million Foreign Military Funding (FMF) for the Philippines, the foreign secretary said.

Romulo, who is at the United Nations in New York, made the statement shortly after meeting with Philippine Ambassador to the US Willy Gaa, who gave him an update on developments in Washington.

In the statement, Romulo thanked the US Senate for increasing funding assistance to the Philippines.

"We deeply appreciate the efforts of our friends in the US Congress to provide increased resources with which we can help secure our nation and build stronger foundations for growth and progress for our people," he said.

Romulo noted that in September, the US Senate made an almost three-fold increase in its FMF for the Philippines—from the $11 million proposed by the executive branch to $30 million.

Final decision soon

The US Senate also increased the Economic Support Fund (ESF) from $26 million to $30 million and urged the executive branch to request for more once there is a peace agreement between the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

"There are no preconditions to these increased levels of funding," Romulo stressed.

Gaa told Romulo that with discussions on the US budget set to be concluded in the coming weeks, the Senate-proposed funding would soon be taken up in conference committee for finalization.

Romulo said he was confident that the additional amount would be granted.

"Many of the recommendations that have been made so far by Professor Alston are already part of the measures we have adopted," he said.

Rogue elements

"Military promotions are subject to extreme scrutiny—including from the Commission of Human Rights to the Commission on Appointments, and investigations and prosecutions are being undertaken when there is credible evidence."

Romulo pointed out that the Melo Commission, which investigated the extrajudicial killings, and even the UN Special Rapporteur had acknowledged that rogue elements in the Armed Forces—not the entire Philippine military—were involved.

"The Philippine government's resolve to defeat this scourge is clear: 76 cases are on trial, 33 cases are being prepared for prosecution, and six persons, including men in uniform, have been convicted," he said.

In an earlier report to the United Nations in March, Alston criticized key government institutions, particularly the executive branch and the military, for their apparent failure to address the issue of killings.

Alston said the military, not the purges in the Communist Party of the Philippines, was responsible for a "significant" number of the summary executions.

Importance of US aid

Alston also criticized the Malacañang policy requiring government officials, including military officers, to get approval from Ms Arroyo before they can appear at congressional inquiries.

He also criticized the Office of the Ombudsman for its failure to act on even a single case of the 444 complaints filed before it between 2002 and 2006 regarding killings attributed to public officials.

Romulo said that US assistance had helped the Philippines on many fronts.

He said the funding had been crucial to the successes which the Philippines had achieved in fighting terror and creating growth, particularly in Mindanao.

"This is funding that has been central to uprooting terrorism by bringing in basic infrastructure, health care and education to affected areas," he said.

Bayan praises US move

The left-wing group Bagong Alyansang Makayan (Bayan) praised the US Senate's decision to impose human rights-related conditions for the additional military aid, but lamented that American lawmakers still agreed to the larger funding for the Filipino military.

"This is a de facto recognition that the Philippine government is committing human rights violations," Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes said.

He urged Washington to come up with a mechanism to check compliance by the Arroyo administration.

A local human rights group, Karapatan, claims to have documented more than 800 extrajudicial killings since Ms Arroyo took power in 2001. The INQUIRER count is about 300.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon has denied allegations that the military was behind most of the killings, saying a police task force has found 14 soldiers were involved in six cases, and that the other cases apparently did not involve the military. The military has no policy of targeting civilians, he added.

Since human rights groups have started a public campaign to halt the killings, "there has been a perceptible decrease in body counts," Reyes said.

But he added: "There remains an atmosphere of terror, repression and activists were being arrested based on trumped up charges." *With an AP report*

2 new impeach cases filed against President

From page A1

Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. by Iloilo Vice Gov. Rolex Suplico. The case now included Ms Arroyo.

The second complaint, which was lodged by the United Opposition (UNO), was meant as an "addendum or supplement" to the Pulido complaint, according to its spokesperson Adel Tamano.

Tamano said it was sent directly to the committee on justice, not to the secretary general's office, because it was only intended to supplement the Pulido complaint. It was officially received at 2:20 p.m.

"It gives substance to the Pulido complaint," Tamano told reporters. "We want the impeachment proceeding to be genuine and credible that's why we are participating in it."

Tamano, the lone signatory in the 38-page complaint, admitted that the opposition was "forced" to move only because of Pulido's initiative.

Palace dismisses new cases

Malacañang shrugged off the new cases.

"Despite this minor distraction, the President will remain laser-focused on her principal task of governing this nation," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

It was business as usual yesterday for Ms Arroyo, who attended a book launch organized by a group of call centers in Makati City. She stayed for an hour, endorsing the group's roadmap which was to see to it that the country gets 10 percent global market share of the business process outsourcing by 2010. *(See Business Section.)*

Some opposition congressmen distanced themselves from the twin complaints.

"The minority is not involved in the filing and preparation of these cases," Senior Deputy Minority Leader Roilo Golez said.

Deputy Minority Leader Risa Hontiveros expressed reservations over the "legal standing" of the two initiatives, considering Ms Arroyo's purported one-year immunity from another impeachment complaint.

Study complaints

In a caucus yesterday, minority lawmakers agreed to first study the complaints before deciding on whether to support any of them, according to Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez.

He said the group would await another impeachment case being readied by the Bayan Muna party-list group.

"We were forced to do it," Tamano said. "Assuming that the Pulido complaint is *hao siao* (bogus), what should the opposition do? Should we just stand by and say it's *hao siao* and do nothing about it? If we do that then the impeachable officer gets one-year protection."

Tamano acknowledged that the reinforced Pulido complaint might still generate no significant support from both majority and minority congressmen. "It's symbolic. We're trying to set an example."

UNO's "supplement" to the Pulido complaint was based on Ms Arroyo's alleged participation in the $329-million National Broadband Network project and the alleged distribution of cash gifts to congressmen in Malacañang.

Culpable violation

In the supplement, Tamano said Ms Arroyo "committed culpable violations of the Constitution and graft and corruption, and betrayed public trust when she abetted and/or tolerated the commission of a crime" in connection with the NBN project.

He said Ms Arroyo "committed bribery and engaged in graft and corruption" in the alleged cash distribution. He said it was meant to bribe congressmen "for the purpose of dismissing the Pulido impeachment complaint and hasten (its) referral to the justice committee to prevent the filing of a more substantive impeachment complaint."

The complaint would balloon to 60 pages if annexes—such as newspaper clippings, Jose "Joey" De Venecia III's affidavit, and certified true copies of the Senate hearing on the NBN scandal—were included, according to Tamano.

UNO took the President to task for allegedly "not doing anything" about the alleged bribe offer reported to her by former socioeconomic planning secretary Romulo Neri. The offer was allegedly made by Abalos.

Bribe probe

"At the very least, the bribe offer ... should have led to an investigation about the culpability of Mr. Abalos," according to the complaint.

The supplemental complaint also cited First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo's alleged participation in the project bagged by China's ZTE Corp. De Venecia III, son of the Speaker, had alleged that he had been asked by the President's husband to "back off" from the project.

"With the involvement of her very own husband, it can well be said that she is in fact part and parcel of the same conspiracy to grant ZTE the NBN contract," UNO said in the complaint.

On the cash gifts, the group said the "respondent and her agents have bastardized the hallowed grounds of Malacañang Palace, the seat of power, and prostituted it into a shoddy den where bribes are licentiously given."

It was referring to the report that around 190 congressmen received between P200,000 and P500,000 cash during a meeting with Ms Arroyo on Oct. 11, the same day the Pulido complaint was sent to the committee on justice.

Pulido case

Quezon City Rep. Matias Defensor, justice committee chair, yesterday said a supplemental complaint "can be considered," but made it clear that a new complaint would fall under the one-year ban.

A new complaint will involve "a subject totally alien to the old complaint" while a supplement will provide only "additional evidence" to an existing complaint, he said.

Defensor said the committee might tackle the Pulido complaint within the week.

Tamano said the UNO complaint would not violate the one-year ban, arguing that the Constitution prohibited only more than one impeachment proceeding against the same official within a year.

"We already have an impeachment proceeding pending at the committee on justice," he told reporters. "Our filing of an addendum or supplement does not make it more than one impeachment proceeding."

Among those who signed the Suplico initiative were lawyer Harry Roque Jr., Angelito Banayo, former Transportation Secretary Josefina Lichauco, Ma. Serena Diokno, Consuelo Joaquin Paz, Manuel Baviera, Roel Garcia and other civil society leaders.

'We can't give up'

"We refuse to be helpless; we can't give up on our country. This is our way of saying that we're fighting back," said ophthalmologist Ma. Dominga "Minguita" Padilla.

Fr. Joe Dizon said the complaint was just one of a series of moves "to resolve the crisis of legitimacy in the country."

Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño Jr. later endorsed the civil society groups' complaint. "It is a matter of duty for me to do so in order to hold the President accountable for her impeachable acts in relation to the scandalous NBN-ZTE deal," he said.

The complainants believed that the addendum would revive the original impeachment complaint against Abalos that had been archived.

"The complaint was just set aside, but not dismissed. And since there's a new supplemental motion, they have no choice but to revive it," Roque told reporters.

Impeach fate key to GMA-JDV alliance

From page A1

Ms Arroyo and De Venecia.

He said Lakas and its allies—Kampi, Nationalist People's Coalition and the administration-wing of the Liberal Party—were bound by a "gag order" to prevent members from "adding fuel to the intrigues" splitting their top two leaders.

Zubiri confirmed that Ms Arroyo and De Venecia had discussed the Speaker's namesake son Joey who had dropped several bombshells implicating the First Couple and their cronies to the scandal-tainted National Broadband Network (NBN) deal with ZTE of China.

"It's a matter between father and son, it's a very sensitive matter," said Zubiri. "Whatever statements will come from the ZTE probe will not affect the coalition," he said.

Body language

Following Saturday's truce, the latest in a string of much-hyped reconciliation meetings, the senator insisted that all was well between Ms Arroyo and De Venecia.

"Their body language showed that they have good rapport," said Zubiri. He admitted a "slight rift" which he blamed on "rah-rah boys" sowing intrigue.

He remained confident that the coalition would iron out all the kinks by January when it holds a meeting at the Clark special economic zone in Pampanga that could decide on a short list of candidates for president and vice president in 2010.

But Zubiri himself admitted that based on its list of potential candidates from its ranks—Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte, Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. and Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando—Lakas was "*dehado*" or the underdog.

But Lakas, Zubiri said, was open to alliances and guest candidates.

All for show

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. believes that both the President and De Venecia need each other to protect each other's back. "There are so many bones in the closet and interests to protect," said Pimentel.

Nueva Ecija Rep. Eduardo Nonato Joson said the Arroyo-De Venecia truce was "all for show."

"They are veteran politicians. In public, they shake hands but when their backs are turned, they start stabbing each other," Joson said in a telephone interview yesterday.

He said it appeared that De Venecia was "stable in his post" for now.

"But wait until the House committee on justice makes a ruling about the impeachment case," Joson said. "I'm sure that once it is dismissed and there is no more threat against the President being impeached then it will be free for all," Joson said.

Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Carlos Padilla said moves to oust De Venecia as Speaker had "fizzled out."

A member of the so-called reform bloc in the House, Padilla said the Arroyo administration had fortified its position to remove De Venecia with the President's pardon of convicted plunderer and ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Deal temporary

But Joson said Ms Arroyo's deal with De Venecia was only temporary.

"Can the Arroyos forget what De Venecia's son did in dragging the name of the First Gentleman in the scandal?" Joson said.

The lawmaker earlier filed a resolution asking for the resignation of Ms Arroyo because of the scandals rocking her administration.

Padilla assailed De Venecia for the alleged lack of transparency in how the funds of the House of Representatives had been spent, fanning suspicion that much of the amount was being used as "goodwill money" for its members to protect his interests.

The leftist group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) said Ms Arroyo was "obviously terrified" by the revival of the impeachment case against her and this was the reason why she patched up with De Venecia.

"Malacañang has pressed the panic button with regard to the impeachment complaint which is why it hurriedly patched up differences with De Venecia," Bayan secretary general Renator Reyes Jr. said. *With reports from Jerome Aning; Anselmo Roque, Inquirer Central Luzon; and Melvin Gascon, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

RP wins 'best outsourcing destination' award in UK

THE PHILIPPINES HAS WON THE BEST Offshoring Destination of the Year award given out by the United Kingdom National Outsourcing Association (NOA) during its fourth awards night in London recently.

The Department of Foreign Affairs, quoting from a report by the Philippine Embassy in London, said the Philippines was nominated for the award by the European Chamber of Commerce. The Philippines was a runner-up for the same award last year.

Other finalists this year were Malta, Sri Lanka and the Russian Federation.

Honorary Philippine trade and investment representative Vic Casim received the award in behalf of the government on Oct. 18, in a ceremony attended by close to 500 of the most influential people in the outsourcing industry.

The NOA is the United Kingdom's only outsourcing trade association. The annual awards have marked the acceptance of outsourcing as a legitimate business practice and recognizes the efforts of those in the field.

The embassy said the investment climate in the Philippines drew favorable comments from the contest judges, specifically about significant improvements made in infrastructure and trade incentives.

"Bagging the NOA award puts the Philippines firmly [on the map] as a global player in the off-shoring marketplace. It will also boost its attractiveness as a premier off-shoring location for the 21st century," the embassy said.

The DFA said a prestigious consulting firm, Frost and Sullivan, also cited the Philippines as one of the 10 best destination countries for outsourcing.

Over the past decade, the Philippines has emerged as a top business process outsourcing location in the Asia Pacific region in terms of cost, English-speakers, highly skilled manpower and excellent wireless infrastructure, including a high-quality fiber optic network. It is also accessible to the Asean [Association of South East Asian Nations] market of 567 million people.

Cynthia D. Balana

SEN. MIRIAM Defensor-Santiago delivers the Philippine statement on the International Law Commission report before the United Nations General Assembly on Nov. 2. The GA and the Security Council will vote next year on her nomination to the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the UN. Santiago will be back at the Senate this week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PVC CARD PRINTING
Good Price & Prompt Delivery
We print:
- Company ID
- School ID
- Membership Card
- Loyalty Cards
- Visitor Pass
- School Bag Tags
- Gate Pass
& others...

SOGO

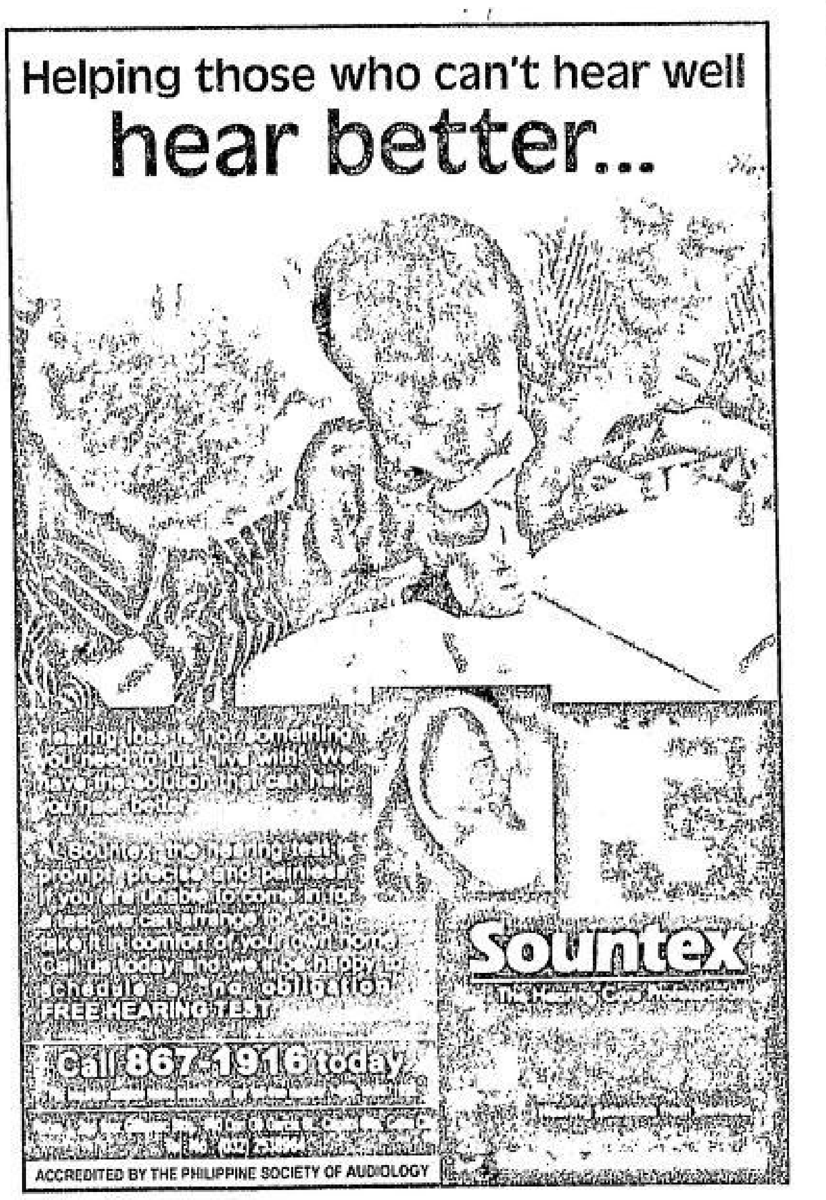
FRANCHISE NOW! P400k-P600k Call Global 910-6544 to 45

THE GENERICS PHARMACY
MABISA na, MATIPID pa !!!
20% DISCOUNT FOR SENIOR CITIZENS
10-09

Amoxicillin cap 500mg	4.50	Metformin tab 500mg	1.70
Carbocisteine cap 500mg	1.80	Paracetamol tab 500mg	0.50
Glibenclamide tab 5mg	1.50	Simvastatin tab 20mg	12.00
Mefenamic cap 500mg	1.40	Vit B-Complex tab	1.70

NOW HIRING! Licensed Pharmacist P12,000 Call 711-0933
QUEZON CITY (1) 459 Quezon Ave corner Banawe St. 396-5384 (MAIN), (2) 157 A. Bonifacio Avenue corner Pag-asa St. 411-3002; (3) Lung Center Compound, Quezon Ave 924-6101 loc 500 (4) 24-D Arayat St., Cubao 721-4948, 0916-343-7500
PASAY (5) 2602- Taft Ave. cor. Protacio St., 551-4046, 0917-804-0150; (6) RL Hotel, 812 EDSA Malibay 551-4046, 0917-804-0150
PASIG (7) St. Francis Square, Ortigas 632-1010 loc 279; (8) 24-B Industria corner Commercio Kapasigan 0918-520-2644
CAVITE (9) Gran Via Central, Tierra Nevada, Gen Trias 0922-892-6759
MANILA (10) 2683 Juan Luna St. Gagalangin, Tondo 0922-314-1914; (11) 806 Arlegui St. Quiapo 0921-960-0208; (12) Gate 54 Area C Zone 25 Brgy 275 Farola Binondo 535-3542
TAGUIG (13) 1 Bernardo St. cor. Bravo St. Signal Village 0920-200-2180
BATANGAS (14) CM Recto /Kap. Simeon Luz St. Brgy6 Lipa 0918-558-7476
BULACAN (15) Lower Northern Hills, Malhacan, Meycauayan 0922-8600204
CALOOCAN (16) 367 JP Rizal, Maypajo 0920-922-9304
MALABON (17) Ever,Gov. Pascual /MH del Pilar 287-4653,0922-827-8374
MANDALUYONG (18) 153 P. Cruz St. Brgy. New Zaniga 535-3542
PARANAQUE (19) 366 Quirino Avenue, Baclaran 0917-852-0563
FREE MEDICAL CHECK-UP at Taft, Pasay (Tues,Fri); St. Francis Square (Daily); Ever, Malabon (M,W,Th,Sat)
60 locations at www.thegenericspharmacy.com

idoc
The New Split Type Aircon
Wall Mounted Aircon
1hp-P16,500
1.5hp-P18,500 2hp-P25,000
2.5hp-P30,000 4hp-P43,000
Floor Mounted Aircon
3hp-P39,500 5hp-P55,000
Ceiling Mounted Aircon 3hp P39,500,4hpP52,000 6hp P65,000
Ceiling Cassette 3hp-P50,000, 5hp P85,000
Free Installation!
Available at: MC Home (Fort & Ortigas)Call: 2432610,2414731 09177949874, Cebu-(032)3465498 Davao-(082)2358821 www.idoc-aircon.com

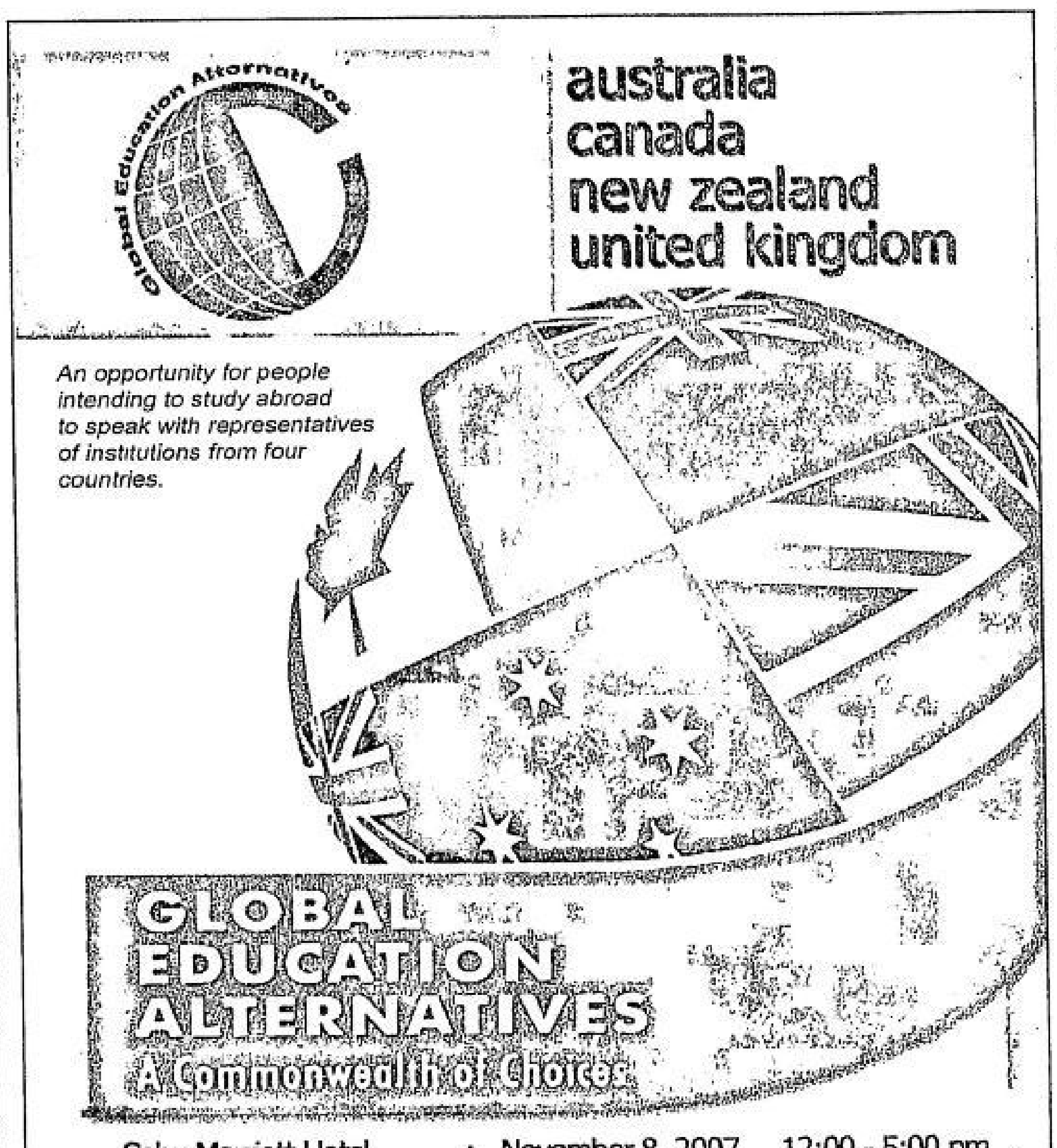

Helping those who can't hear well
hear better...
Sountex

Hearing loss is not something you need to just live with. We have the solution that can help you hear better.

At Sountex, the hearing test is prompt, precise and painless. If you are unable to come in for a test, we can arrange for you to take it in comfort of your own home. Call us today and we'll be happy to schedule a no obligation FREE HEARING TEST.

Call 867-1916 today

ACCREDITED BY THE PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF AUDIOLOGY


Global Education Alternatives
australia
canada
new zealand
united kingdom
GLOBAL EDUCATION ALTERNATIVES
A Commonwealth of Choices

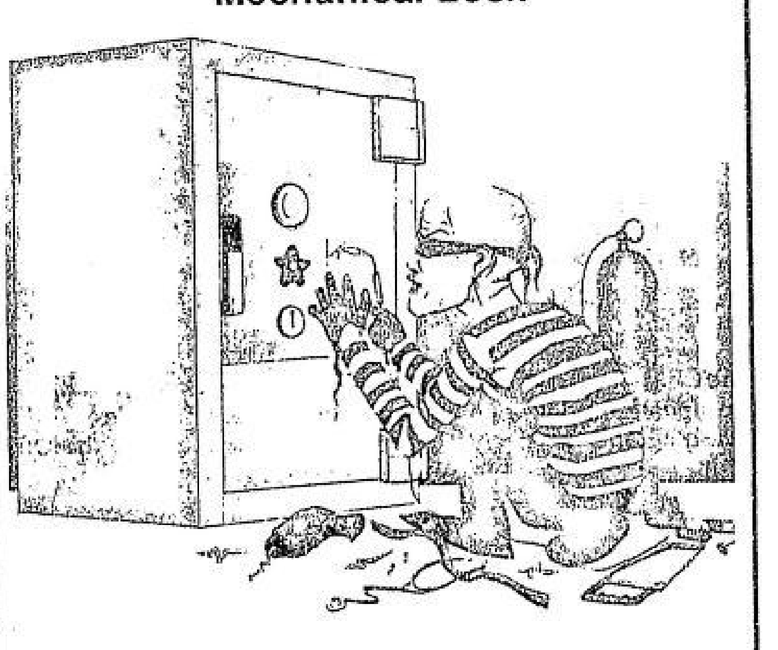
An opportunity for people intending to study abroad to speak with representatives of institutions from four countries.

Cebu Marriott Hotel : November 8, 2007 12:00 - 5:00 pm
Dusit Hotel Nikko Makati : November 9, 2007 1:00 - 6:00 pm
: November 10, 2007 1:00 - 7:00 pm
Brent International School Baguio, Griffiths Theater : November 12, 2007 1:00 - 5:00 pm

idp EDUCATION Canada BRITISH COUNCIL

FREE ADMISSION
To pre-register, visit www.globaleducation.org.ph
for inquiries, please call 816-0755 (Australia) 857-9137 (Canada) - 891-4625 (New Zealand) - 914-1011 (United Kingdom)

PROtech
CERTIFICATION INTERNATIONAL ISO 9001: 2000
SATURN
World Class Burglar Resisting Safe
with NEW Hybrid Electronic/ Mechanical Lock



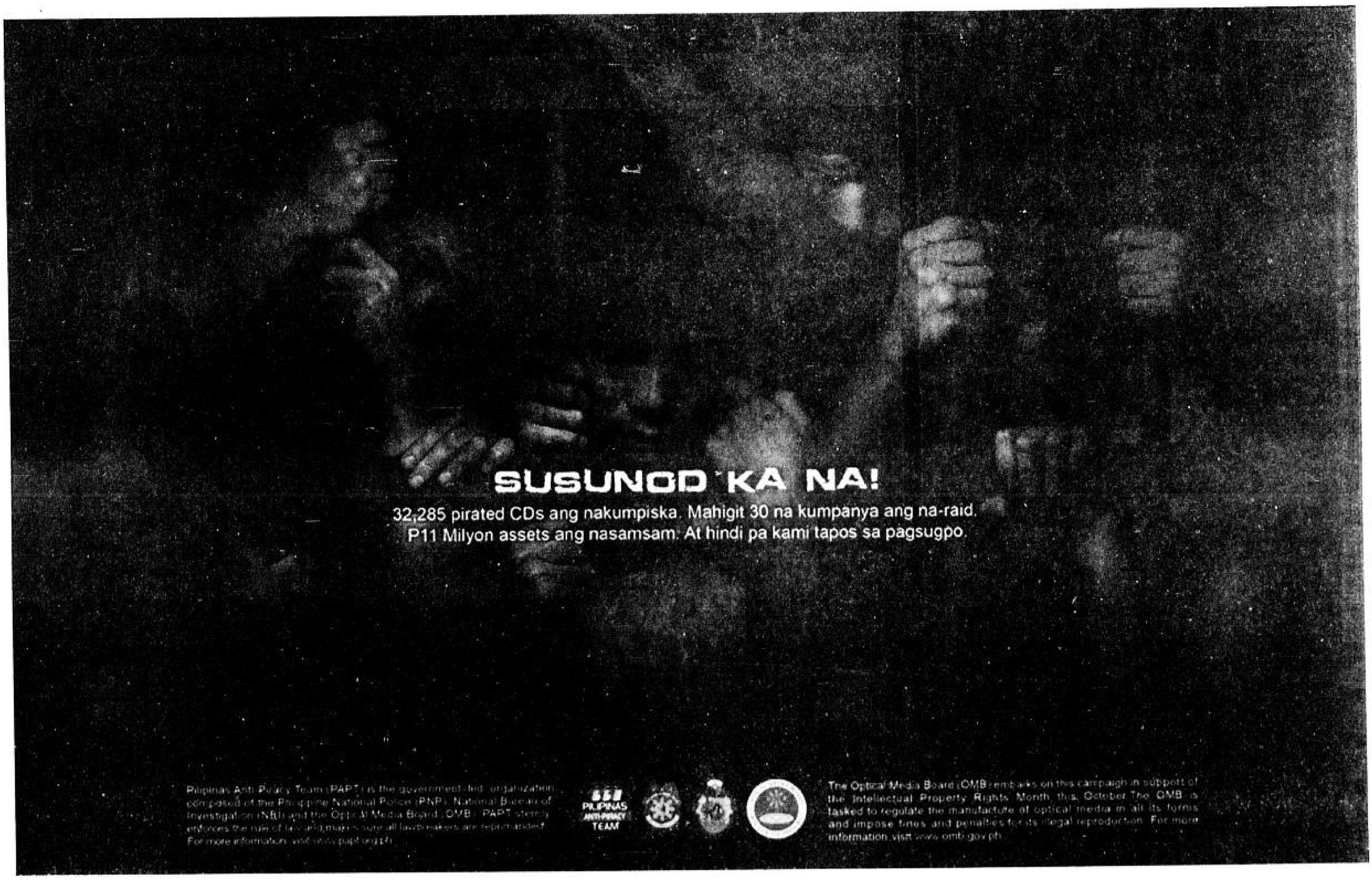
DON'T CHANCE IT. PROTECH IT.

PROTECTION TECHNOLOGY, INC.
Physical Security Equipment www.protech.com.ph

HEAD OFFICE:
2643-U Taft Ave., Pasay City, MM
Tel Nos.: 833-3622 * 833-1246
831-0648 * 551-4809 * 551-7869
Fax No.: (632) 831-2961
E-mail: protech@philonline.com

CEBU OFFICE:
Escano St. cor. Don Mariano
Cui St., Capitol Site, Cebu City
Tel. No.: (032) 255-6384
Telefax : (032) 254-6301
E-mail: protechc@mozcom.com

DAVAO OFFICE:
Unit-C Atty. Fanlo Compound
Padre Gomez St., Davao City
Tel. No.: (082) 221-5021
Telefax : (082) 228-6693
E-mail: protechd@mozcom.com



32,285 pirated CDs ang nakumpiska. Mahigit 30 na kumpanya ang na-raid. P11 Milyon assets ang nasamsam. At hindi pa kami tapos sa pagsugpo.

Pilipinas Anti-Piracy Team (PAPT) is the government-led organization composed of the Philippine National Police (PNP), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and the Optical Media Board (OMB). PAPT sternly enforces the rule of law and makes sure all lawbreakers are reprimanded. For more information visit www.papt.org.ph

The Optical Media Board (OMB) embarks on this campaign in support of the Intellectual Property Rights Month this October. The OMB is tasked to regulate the manufacture of optical media in all its forms and impose fines and penalties for its illegal reproduction. For more information visit www.omb.gov.ph

ISSN 0116-2642
INQUIRER
Vol. 22 No. 331
Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Website: www.inquirer.net/opinion
OPINION
Text us your feedback: inquirer opi name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 523-5570
•Subscription Hotline 896-6000
•100% soy ink•

On the right track

A THREE-PART SPECIAL REPORT PUBLISHED IN the Philippine Daily Inquirer last week disclosed what the judiciary is doing to help dispel the climate of impunity that has allowed extrajudicial killings to thrive. It also discussed the measures adopted by the judiciary to speed up the resolution of cases, especially those involving poor litigants.

EDITORIAL

Taking the lead in all these reform measures is the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice Reynato Puno, which has already earned the sobriquet of "Activist Court."

One of the innovations that the Puno Court has introduced is the writ of amparo (from *amparar*, Spanish for to protect, to defend). The writ has been issued in at least two cases involving the alleged torture and detention of several persons.

The wheels of justice grind exceedingly slow in our country; in many instances it takes years to resolve even minor cases, most of which involve poor litigants. To speed up the dispensation of justice, judicial services are brought to the litigants by mobile courts under a program known as "Justice on Wheels."

It is still too early to say whether the introduction of the writ of amparo will do away with the climate of impunity surrounding political killings. But wielded fearlessly by the courts, it could mark a new start in the effort to protect powerless and helpless people from the tremendous and awesome power of the Executive Department, including its enforcers, the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

A nationwide information campaign may be needed to tell the people, especially activists and militants, that there is now a writ that can help them safeguard their rights and liberties. Lawyers' associations and individual lawyers should be encouraged to make use of this writ to force military or police authorities to disclose information on suspected extrajudicial killings and abductions.

The apathetic and callous attitude of the Arroyo administration and its police and military minions toward what Karapatan says are about 800 cases of extrajudicial killings (the INQUIRER count is 300) makes it necessary for judges and lawyers, the officers of the court, to use extraordinary measures. The administration is long on rhetoric but short on action, and in most cases, its strategy is to deny things to death.

The Puno Court is to be commended for making the writ of amparo available to victims as well as relatives of victims of human rights violations. We hope that the first cases that have been filed will produce encouraging results.

The Court's "Justice on Wheels" program, launched in 2004, has reduced the backlog of some lower courts. For instance, the backlog of cases in the Taytay Municipal Trial Court has been reduced from 3,600 to 2,400. The rate and amount of reduction could be increased if more courts on wheels are established.

The program receives funding from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, but apparently the funds are not enough. This is one program that deserves the attention and support of the executive and legislative departments. It may be too late to include a bigger outlay in next year's national budget, but it may be included in the 2009 general appropriation bill. Perhaps the members of Congress could be persuaded to take cuts in their pork barrel so that a bigger amount could be appropriated for the courts on wheels.

The problems of the country's courts are so many and so varied that one would not know where and how to begin to tackle them. But the efforts to give additional protection to victims of human rights violations and to speed up the resolution of cases involving poor litigants are a good start.

Another urgent problem that needs an urgent solution is the poor, and in some cases, subhuman living conditions in the country's jails. The conditions in some, if not most of them, are so bad and so pitiful that it is no wonder that even first-time offenders who serve time in them leave as hardened criminals, determined to get back at society that dehumanized them. Conditions in the country's jails have to be improved if they are to serve their purpose of reforming and rehabilitating lawbreakers.

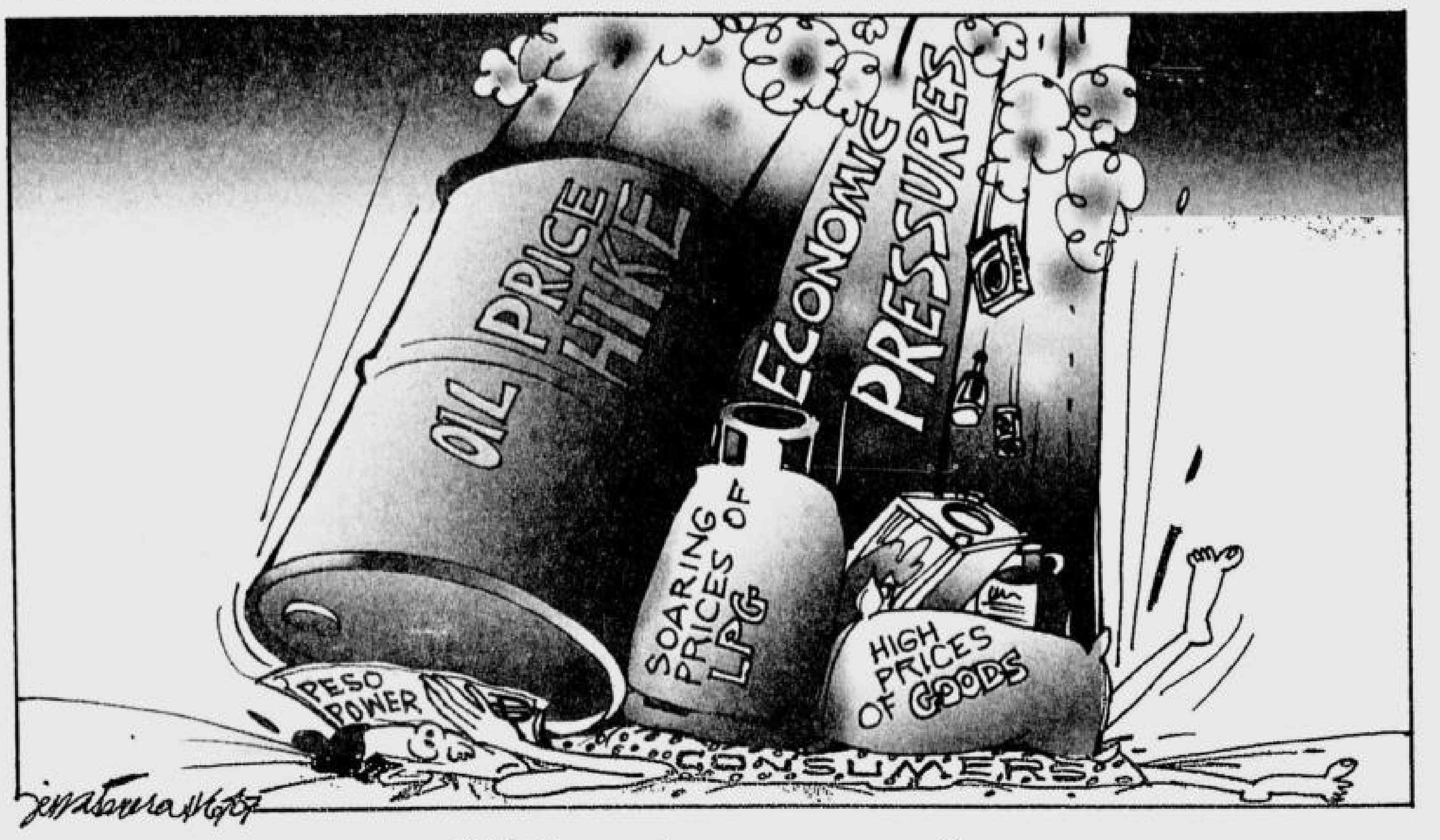
The judiciary is on the right track in its efforts to reform the system. It needs the support and encouragement of the executive and legislative branches as well as of the citizenry to sustain the improvements that it has started.

Publisher ISAGANI YAMBOT
Editor in Chief LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC
Managing Editor JOSE MA. D. NOLASCO
Associate Editor ABELARDO S. ULANDAY
Associate Editor for Readership ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO
Opinion Editor JORGE V. ARUTA
News Editor ARTEMIO T. ENGRACIA JR. • *Chief, Page One Operations* NILO B. PAUROM
Chief, News Day Desk RUBEN G. ALABASTRO
National Editor PERGENTINO B. BANDAYREL JR.
Senior Desk Editor JUAN V. SARMIENTO JR.
Editorial Consultant AMANDO DORONILA
Chief Photographer ERNIE U. SARMIENTO
Art & Design Director LYNETT A. VILLARIBA

Board Chairman MARIXI R. PRIETO
President ALEXANDRA PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing RENATO R. REINOSO
VP for Advertising FELIPE R. OLARTE
AVP for Circulation SANDY SIMON R. YAP

Readers' Advocate LORNA KALAW TIROL
readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph • Tel. No. 897-8808, Loc. 342

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.



Ultimate weapon?

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"THE HUMAN RACE HAS ONLY ONE REALLY effective weapon—laughter," Mark Twain once said.

Is that why we Filipinos joke about everything, even pardoned plunderers? Twain's comment also underscores what the Sunday Telegraph calls "arguably the bravest stand-up comics in the world today": the "Moustache Brothers." Despite repeated jailing and fear, they take on paranoid Burmese dictators, with jokes.

"Par Par Lay goes to India to have his toothache treated," reports The New York Times. "Don't you have dentists in Myanmar?" the Indian dentist wonders. "Oh, yes, we do, doctor," the Burmese replies. "But in Myanmar, we're not allowed to open our mouths."

That echoes our gag about two dogs seeking US visas. "Martial law has been good to you," the scrawny mutt tells the plump mongrel. "Why do you want to leave?" The reply: "I want to bark."

Like the Philippines under Marcos, the government in Burma today is a joke. To laugh invites a beating or prison, so pervasive is the brutal *tatmadaw* or military. "Burma is not a country with an army," observers say. "It's an army with a country."

Yet, the "Brothers" jabbed the sullen junta daily. "If the secret police come in the front, we'll escape out the back," Lu Maw begins their show. A general died and became a big fish, they continue. As a tsunami rolls toward Myanmar, the fish admonishes the wave: "Stop! I've already done that."

Reminds you of the 56 Filipino colonels who didn't bag their star. All replied "Four" to Gen. Fabian Ver's question "How much is two plus two?" They flunked. But a brash captain answered, "Two for me—and two for you, sir." And a beaming Ver said: "Correct. Please see the President, Colonel." Then when Marcos popped the same question, he answered: "Two plus two equals four—and all for you, sir." "Raise your right hand, General," the dictator said.

Telling jokes against "Big Brother" are "tiny revolutions," author George Orwell noted. Pogo and Togo poked fun, on stage, at Japanese occupiers. The Kempetai padlocked their show.

Remember the guy who was taken ill while passing Imelda Marcos' Film Center? As he vomits, a passerby whispers into his ear: "*Pare,* I share your opinion."

For spinning wisecracks before detained Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi and diplomats in 1996, the Brothers were banned from performing before Burmese audiences. That was the lighter of penalties. Par Par Lay and Lu Zaw served five years in a jungle prison camp.

Par and 45 other dissidents were released last week, Agence France Presse reported. Par cooked curry for Buddhist monks who demonstrated against the junta, when arrested for the third time last September.

United Nations envoy Ibrahim Gambari is due to arrive in Rangoon soon. He'll be followed by UN human rights envoy Paolo Sergio Pinheiro. In November 2003, Pinheiro exposed bugs in his Rangoon room where he was interviewing political prisoners. He documented the plight of over 1,100 political prisoners, forced labor, curbs on political and civil liberties.

"We are artists. We believe in ordinary people, not in the government," Lu Maw explained. "We need light, but in Myanmar, light on and off. Not enough electricity. No water supply. School—money, money, money! Ordinary people no money. So we joke. People need a good joke. But the government don't like us because we joke."

"Among serious students of humor, it's commonly known that the most piquant political jokes are found wherever totalitarian dictatorships flourish," University of California (Berkley) professor Alan Dundes writes. As the psychotic "Cultural Revolution" wound down, Chinese students would yell: "Down with the Gang of Four" while waving five fingers. The fifth referred to Mao Zedong.

Political jokes wither when free speech returns. In Poland, gags dried up when the Solidarity revolt ushered in freedom. Democratic countries "can't compete with jokes about Hitler, Stalin, or, say, Marcos," Dundes adds.

Few wielded the joke more effectively against the Marcos dictatorship than the late Jaime Cardinal Sin. On his return from the conclave that elected Pope John Paul II, Sin told Comelec's Leonardo Perez: "Leonie, if you had overseen the conclave, I would have been elected pope."

But the recent crackdown on monks by tatmadaw was "no good for jokes," Lu Maw noted. "People are sad. Man kill man, you go to hell. This Buddhist belief. Now they are killing monks! They go beyond hell."

"Political humor is a response to conditions typical of dictatorial regimes," says the University of Massachusetts' Oriol Pi-Sunyer who analyzed Spanish political humor under the Franco dictatorship. Jokes are acts of defiance the world over, add Steven Lukes of Baliol College at Oxford and Itzhak Galnoor of Hebrew University in their book, "No Laughing Matter." "The time to worry is when the jokes stop."

"Yes, we're afraid," admits Lu Maw. "But we keep going. We just joke. This is our job, our family tradition… Out there are spies, listening, watching. We are dead meat."

The Brothers "are the ultimate example of the old theatrical maxim that 'the show must go on,'" notes the Sunday Telegraph. "(They're Burma's) only political satire show." And even as the generals stomp on all dissent, "arguably the world's bravest stand-up comics were still making fun of them."

We Filipinos owe these brave comedians support. "Man suffers so deeply that he has to invent laughter," Nietszche wrote. Jokes could even buttress the growing applications for "writs of amparo" here.

(E-mail: juanlmercado@gmail.com)

Parallels

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

AS I WRITE THIS, PERVEZ MUSHARRAF HAS just declared martial law in Pakistan. He has done so presumably because extremist elements have been threatening Pakistan's democracy. Like Ferdinand Marcos and others who have declared martial law before him, Musharraf equates democracy with his health. Proof of it being that his response to the threat against democracy is to curtail democracy, notably the Constitution, free speech, and the right not to be arrested without warrant.

The declaration wasn't unexpected. Some months ago, Musharraf tried to fire Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry and was greeted with massive protests. Chaudhry had been the main check on his military rule, and was expected to void recent elections that reaffirmed his hold on power. A case was pending in the Supreme Court questioning his right to run for president while remaining in control of the military. Musharraf preempted the court's decision by declaring a state of emergency.

Already unpopular, Musharraf became even more unpopular when he offered to pardon former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on corruption charges. Bhutto returned home from exile abroad a few weeks ago and was greeted by a huge terrorist attack. Yet it was Bhutto who, after setting foot back in Pakistan, also accurately summarized Musharraf's latest trick: "It's the blackest day in Pakistan's history. I agree with him (Musharraf) that we are facing a political crisis, but I believe the problem is dictatorship. I don't believe the solution is dictatorship."

Now, the all-important question for us is: Can the same thing happen here? Or will the same thing happen here?

The "can" is easy to answer: Yes.

I've been warning for some time now that GMA won't leave after 2010, and I've seen nothing since the last elections to change that opinion. Indeed, I've seen a lot of things since then to bolster it. Not the least the recent pardon of Erap, which not unlike Musharraf's offer of pardon to Bhutto, is an attempt to dangle the carrot of power-sharing. I myself would add the bombing of Glorietta to it, which only the PNP seems convinced is an accident. A bombing that defuses—truly an oxymoron to end all oxymorons—the time bomb that had begun ticking loudly under Malacañang as a result of the ZTE and bribery scandals is not easy to see as an act of God. Or the Ayalas, even if they confuse themselves with Him every now and then.

The presidential wannabes who are tripping each other in the hope to become the last man, or woman, standing proudly in the voters' eyes by 2010 are deluding themselves. Their notion that GMA "won't dare" stay on after her term limits is a vapid one. Why should someone who never won a term morally and legally be bothered by the limits imposed on that term? She gets away with the recent scandals, and she will dare. It will have convinced her she can get away with anything.

There are two ways she could stay in power past 2010. The first is by changing the Constitution. She has already made noises to that effect, and I for one can't understand why some opposition figures seem willing to support it because it calls for federalism. Charter change before 2010 will not strengthen the countryside, it will lengthen GMA's rule.

Failing this, there's the option of authoritarian rule.

The parallels in circumstances between the Philippines and Pakistan are certainly not superficial. One might imagine that that is dispelled from the start by the fact that Musharraf took power by a coup while GMA did not, but that isn't so at all. Not after 2004. I will continue to maintain that what we have today is a coup regime: "Hello Garci" by any democratic standard is a crime deserving of jail, not the presidency. The principle is the same: Power seized by (fake) ballot is much a coup as power seized by (real) bullet.

The Supreme Court is the one thing that has stood in the way of Musharraf's wishes; the Supreme Court is the one thing that has stood in the way of GMA's wishes. The religious are up in arms over the corruption in Musharraf's government; the Church (and business) are at least beginning to be up in arms against the corruption in GMA's government, following the ZTE and bribery scandals. The political opposition in the form of Bhutto is tainted with corruption and cooptation; the political opposition in the form of Erap is tainted with corruption and cooptation. The Pakistanis rose angrily to protest Musharraf's offer of pardon to Bhutto; Filipinos have risen angrily to protest GMA's pardon of Erap.

Musharraf is hugely unpopular; GMA is hugely unpopular. Musharraf's legitimacy has always been shaky, and his victory in the last elections would very likely have been declared null and void by the Supreme Court. GMA's legitimacy has always been shaky, and her victory in the last elections has been declared null and void by the people since the "Hello Garci" tape came out. Musharraf says the crisis in his country has to do with extremists, his country says it has to do with him and his extreme desire for dictatorship. GMA says the crisis in her country has to do with extremists, her country says it has to do with her and her extreme desire to rule forever.

The only difference is that Musharraf controls the military while GMA does not. But as appetite for power and willingness to push the envelope go, I'd give the edge to GMA. One thing I do know, to go by what Marcos did during his own time, which is that if martial law befalls this country again, it will be well before 2010. It will be when we least expect it. Marcos did it in September 1972, well before his term ended in December 1973.

Will martial law befall us again?

We don't learn our lessons, yes, it will.

Lakas-CMD leaders unite

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

AS THIS COLUMN WAS BEING WRITTEN BEFORE Congress resumed session yesterday, intrigue flew thick and fast about the leadership of the House of Representatives. Reports said some groups would seek the ouster of Speaker Jose de Venecia, who has enjoyed an unprecedented five terms. But his allies are confident he would remain as speaker and one reason is that President Macapagal-Arroyo, former President Fidel V. Ramos and JDV have vowed to unite for 2010. Doubtless theirs is the realization that a breakup would result in the loss of their party, the Lakas-CMD, in which the three leaders have a tremendous stake. They worked hard to build it up to become the largest and most powerful party and they are not about to throw it all away.

The intrigues against JDV are coming from the usual suspects who seek to capitalize on the testimonies of his son to drive a wedge between him and GMA. But GMA seems to give bigger priority to more pressing demands, such as passing legislative reforms to sustain the economic momentum, and JDV has been of vital assistance in shepherding them in the House. As for FVR, he lives up to his traditional role as the party's elder statesman. As I said earlier, these are times that call for extraordinary statesmanship.

* * *

Last Oct. 29, I attended the ceremony where French Ambassador Gerard Chesnel presented the formal document from French President Nikolas Sarkozy to 49-year-old French Jesuit Fr. Jean-Francois Thomas, electing him as knight in the Legion of Honor, France's highest award founded by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802. Father Thomas, who has been living here since 1996, was recognized for founding in 1998 Tulay ng Kabataan Foundation (TNK), which rescues the neediest children from Metro Manila's streets and slums and seeks to transform them into productive citizens. The ascetic-looking priest holds a doctorate in philosophy from the Sorbonne University in Paris and a master's degree in theology from Cambridge. He chose to leave his teaching at the Ateneo in order to push three projects for the city's poorest children.

An interesting footnote is Chesnel's disclosure that Thomas' father was also awarded the Legion of Honor with rank of knight 55 years ago when he was 32 years old, for his military service during World War II and in the French resistance. Chesnel said it's very rare for a parent and child to both be so decorated. The elder Thomas, who was later promoted to Commander, bequeathed to his son his knight's decoration, and the latter proudly wore it last Oct. 29 over his cassock.

* * *

Cecile Alvarez and I invited Father Thomas to our dzRH program where he spoke about the TNK programs. One seeks to rescue street kids who fall victim to violence, drugs and prostitution and rehabilitate them in residential centers that offer a family atmosphere, while preparing those of school age to return to school through "bridge classes" and giving older ones vocational training. A second program works with families in Metro Manila's slums, where he seeks to feed 800 "dangerously malnourished children," provide them medical care with the help of volunteer doctors from the Edsa Shrine Parish and access to pre-school education. It also trains mothers on better nutrition and recruits them to teach other mothers in this vital concern, and adults to become teachers in his schools. A third program works with scavenger families in the "new Smokey Mountain" in Vitas, Tondo, where 200 children are provided balanced meals and schooling in two centers.

* * *

He notes that poverty seems to be getting worse in the areas where TNK works and that street children seem to be getting younger (as young as four years old). To service TNK's many centers, he spends about P30 million a year and employs about 100 people. How does he raise the funds? Largely through "Divine Providence," he said with a grin, and the help of many kind souls and volunteers. Father Thomas needs donations in cash or in kind, such as rice, "new clothes" for kids ages 4 to 18, "unexpired" medicines and "recent computers." He also noted that more middle and upper class Filipinos are getting involved in helping the very poor, "but much more help is needed." He ended our interview by citing lines from French poet Charles Peguy, which translates roughly thus: "One can avoid looking at poverty, but poverty will look at you anyway." We Pinoys should come to the assistance of this foreign priest regarding our streetchildren. He can be reached at 108 Kalayaan Ave., Q.C. (beside Eunilane Supermarket), Tel. No. 922-2745, or at www.tnkfoundation.org.

* * *

The 2007 Philippines World Pool Championship opened last Saturday at the Araneta Coliseum and will continue until this Sunday. Over 200 players from 50 countries are competing, including the Crown Prince of Brunei and 15 of our elite players, led by world champs Ronnie Alcano and Efren "Bata" Reyes. No sports event in this country has drawn more countries and athletes and won more friends for our people than the WPC, not to mention its being the focus of the international sports media. The success of last year's championships here prompted Billiards Digest to dub RP as "the new epicenter of international pool." Moving the venue to the Big Dome and coverage by a bigger TV channel this year have made it accessible to even more sports spectators than last year's 200 million viewers around the world.

That the country can stage this sports extravaganza is a marvel. The cost of mounting the event and the logistics to make things run smoothly are staggering. But these only seem to challenge the Pinoys to do their best to make the competitions a success. A major factor is the support of sponsors, led by Pagcor and San Miguel Corp. Credit must also be given to the lead RP organizer, Billiards and Snooker Congress chair Yen Makabenta, who's confident that this year's event will bring the sport to unprecedented levels of success.

'Is the juice worth the squeeze?'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

I WAS ABROAD WHEN MY TWO LATEST columns on genetically modified organisms came out. So though Von Hernandez, of Greenpeace Asia, and Dr. Emerlito Borromeo, formerly of the IRRI and UP Los Baños, wrote rejoinders to claims made in those columns by GMO advocates and officers of the Biotechnology Coalition of the Philippines (BCP), it's only now that I can use their letters in a column.

As the points Hernandez and Borromeo raised in their letters are quite complicated, I will be quoting them at some length. But the gist of their message, I believe, is best expressed in Borromeo's closing lines: "The tools available for scientists today are very powerful. They can produce any kind of GMO. But they should not produce it just because they can. Eventually, one has to answer the bottom-line question: 'Is the juice worth the squeeze?'"

The two, of course, believe otherwise.

The "GMO debate," writes Hernandez, "is actually no debate." Greenpeace, he says, stands firm in its statements that "the genetic modification of food crops (1) endangers human health, (2) harms the environment, and (3) jeopardizes farmers' livelihoods." He adds: "No scientific study has ever conclusively proven that GMOs are safe for human consumption, or for propagation in our fields. GMOs further encourage the dangerous corporate control of agriculture, entrenching farmers into almost complete dependence on giant corporations for seeds and technology."

Borromeo was a member of the pool of scientists sitting on the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) tapped by the Department of Agriculture to "review applications for the commercial use of GM crops (by importation for direct use for food or feed, or for propagation/cultivation)," and he says that he may still be a member, even if he hasn't been given any assignments lately.

Still, this hasn't stopped him from weighing in on the "GMO debate" and the motivations of those espousing the new-fangled organisms.

* * *

"DEAN Nina Barzaga (of the UP College of Public Health and president of the BCP) was saying that she has encountered a 'very strong anti GM mind-set that puts ideology before science,'" Borromeo notes. "The same can be said of the other side. We also encounter pro GM mind-set that puts ideology before science, (the ideology) that GMO is the answer even without clarifying the problem, or simply ignoring that less risky, less costly, and more doable solutions exist.

"BCP is for the safe and responsible use of modern biotechnology. I don't see it in their advocacy. They are for GMO regardless of merit… Will the importation of LL62 rice, for example, into the country be a 'responsible use of biotechnology?' What would be the merit of that act? Would it enhance agricultural productivity? Global competitiveness? Lower the price of agricultural commodities? Alleviate poverty and hunger? Improve the health of rice eating Filipinos? In the early years of the GMO debate in the Philippines, in justifying why we should hitch a ride to the biotechnology bandwagon, these were purportedly what biotechnology would bring to Filipinos. But these are now conveniently forgotten in the decision making process."

* * *

HERNANDEZ agrees. GMO manufacturers and their "attached scientists," he says, "desperately try to position GMOs as the answer to all the world's ills. GMOs, they claim, will prevent world hunger and malnutrition, can cure countless diseases including rabies and diarrhea, and is even a solution to climate change—all too good to be true. Of course they never tell us that GMOs can in fact pose more harm than good, and that the safety of GMOs has always been a big question mark in the scientific community.

"Greenpeace is not opposed to biotechnology in general. But we are opposed to GMOs in particular. And it is an opposition based on sound science. More and more studies are now showing how GMOs can harm human health. Many reports have also exposed how government regulatory bodies around the world have been remiss in fully evaluating GMO safety because they rely heavily on tests conducted by the manufacturers themselves."

* * *

PARTICULARLY contentious in the entire GMO controversy is the issue of whether to allow the importation of genetically modified rice, particularly a strain known as LL62.

Hernandez sees the insidious hand of multinational corporations in this issue and behind the entire "pro-GMO" movement. "Bayer and other GMO corporations are currently attempting to get approval for GMO rice in the Philippines. Rice is our most important food crop. We believe that the approval of GMO rice will alter the future of our most important staple—possibly irrevocably. We are therefore campaigning to keep our rice supply free from harmful genetic modification…"

Adds Borromeo: "If I were one of the STRPs to evaluate the LL62 application, I will dismiss it right away for lack of merit. It will bring no advantage, and instead put millions of Filipinos at risk. LL62 rice has never been grown in commercial quantities elsewhere and there has been no history of safe consumption by humans. Much less by a population that eats rice three times a day whole year round. Denying the application will cause no harm to us. This is a 'grow to order' rice. They will grow it when we approve the import application. Why can't BCP ask the DA to wait until other people have actually grown and eaten LL62 rice the way we eat rice. What is the rush?"

Borromeo goes on to discuss almost point-by-point other claims made in the columns, including the implications of using biotechnology to turn common crops into vaccines against diseases.

More on this "juicy" debate or non-debate (depends on where you stand) tomorrow.

A clear conscience is no defense

NEWSSTAND

John Nery

AS A POLITICAL JUNKIE, I ENJOYED "LIONS FOR Lambs," the Tom Cruise starrer that is Robert Redford's latest and most political movie. It is talky, discursive—and honest about the limitations of words, or of political discourse in general, especially in the age of the younger George Bush, the worst president in US history. (Let me qualify that: The worst two-term president in US history.)

I am reminded of Redford's first political movie, "The Candidate," which won an Oscar for best screenplay in 1973. I remember the last scene vividly: After an improbable campaign, Redford's character has won the Senate race. In the tumult of victory, we see him signaling his campaign manager, and mouthing the words: What do we do now?

In a sense, "Lions for Lambs" (which opens in Manila theaters tomorrow) is all about the attempt to recover from the trauma of another improbable but all-too-real campaign, another unqualified, undeserving candidate.

* * *

The photograph showing Lakas leaders giving the thumbs-up sign purports to show renewed "unity of purpose" forged in a summit in Malacañang last Saturday; instead, it projects an air of vulnerability. President Macapagal-Arroyo herself, in the center of the picture flanked by Speaker Jose De Venecia and ex-President Fidel Ramos, does not seem to be too pleased; we've seen her strike a happier pose before. Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita is all the way on the left, almost literally marginalized. (Indeed, he is cropped out in the photo published in the INQUIRER.) The lone senator in the gathering is a rookie and a lightweight, Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri; in the photo, he is dead center, but in the political crisis that the President is working mightily to resolve, he is firmly in the periphery.

Not least, Ermita's rival as the President's most influential alter ego, Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, is not in the picture. Of course, that's because he is not Lakas, but Kampi. But that's precisely the point, isn't it?

* * *

I have long wanted to write something on the political uses of conscience, but the eminent Jesuit John J. Carroll beat me to it. His commentary (found on the next page) begins by repeating what "politicians and others accused of wrongdoing" often claim: "My conscience is clear." Then he writes: "Yet a moment of thought exposes its emptiness."

Really, that is all that needs to be said about politicians accused of wrongdoing who claim a clear conscience as their defense. (The rest of Fr. Carroll's commentary is a meditation on the role conscience can play in the culture of contraception.) Consider the following paragraphs, then, as a mere footnote to Carroll.

* * *

Many politicians, finding themselves on the wrong side of an accusation, do often claim that their conscience is clear.

Take Joseph Estrada—please. (Sorry, could not resist borrowing Henny Youngman's famous punch line). Ever since the "Juetenggate" scandal erupted in October 2000, midway through his presidency, Estrada has never tired of repeating the claim that, on the matter of receiving alleged protection money, his conscience was clear. When the four plunder charges were filed against him, he made the same claim: his conscience was clear. When he was convicted on two of those counts—after the Sandiganbayan was convinced beyond any reasonable doubt that he was, in fact, Jose Velarde—he said the same thing again: His conscience was clear. On his triumphant return as a free man to San Juan, the city where he started his improbable political career, the claim received a kind of vindication: His conscience was clear.

I do not wish to contest the sincerity of Estrada's repeated assertion. His conscience may in fact be as clear as ice water; it doesn't matter. A clear conscience is no defense.

* * *

For the post-Vatican II generation, the clearest (and most evocative) definition of conscience can be found in "Gaudium et Spes." "For man has in his heart a law inscribed by God … His conscience is man's most secret core and his sanctuary. There he is alone with God whose voice echoes in his depths."

It is to one's God, then, that we must make the claim of a clear conscience. (If we can make the claim; Fr. Carroll believes it is all but impossible for a scrupulous Christian.)

The notion that public officials can explain alleged misconduct by claiming a clear conscience cannot justify illegal conduct. Prosecutors and judges cannot penetrate a man's sanctuary (his "citadel," in Carroll's description); they must base their cases and decisions on external evidence. To claim a clear conscience in a public undertaking like a trial, therefore, is to address essentially the wrong audience, using the wrong language.

Besides, there is such a thing as an erroneous judgment of conscience. In Estrada's case, for example, we are well within our rights to ask whether his conscience was capacious enough, or porous enough, to allow him to sire several families. If his conscience is clear on that point, we can question his protestations of innocence—with a clear conscience.

* * *

ADVENTURES IN 3G. For about a week, starting the other Sunday, my phone failed to send or receive text messages. Two telco service officers told me it was probably because I was using a third-generation phone. This sort of thing happens, the first told me, advising me to change from "dual mode" back to "GSM." Didn't work. The second "updated" my "message connectivity," with better results. If you sent me a text message last week and I did not reply, my apologies. It wasn't me, it was my connectivity!

Email: jnery@inquirer.com.ph

Lost souls

YOUNG BLOOD

Eda Lou S. Ibasco

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

I DIED SEVERAL YEARS AGO. I DIED DREAMING. IT happened a few years after college.

During my undergraduate years, I used to dream a lot, literally and figuratively. Dream, believe, survive—that kind of thing. I used to find R. Kelly's song cute, romantic, inspiring, uplifting, enervating (ugh): "I believe I can fly, I believe I can soar." I sincerely thought that if I was good and got good grades, and had great dreams, life would be easy. I would soar above the clouds in happiness, peace and contentment. I just had to be good, be nice, work hard and try to please others as best as I could.

Add to all that crap Eric Clapton's "I can change the world." Easy, the world was at my fingertips. I thought I was special, that I was destined for greatness. The future looked rosy and bright. In my heart of hearts, I nurtured grand dreams and good intentions.

But then I suffered a severe heart attack! And so, I died. The dreamer died. Thank goodness. I should have died sooner.

What triggered the heart attack? The mind-numbing drudgery of routine, the work, the rent, the bills, hundreds of students every semester, the salary, graduate school, the traffic, pollution, global warming, the pressure to marry and have children, the pressure to make more money, all-too-familiar telenovela plots, all the neighborhood videoke noise, the endless honking of jeepneys, our circus-like politics. I realized I was on planet earth, not up in the clouds. My heart just couldn't take it, and so the dreamer died a natural death.

Seriously, it can be very painful to be stripped of one's illusions and see life as it really is: that it can be unkind, even ruthless, especially to those who are "half-asleep," "half-conscious," to the lazy dreamers or hopeless romantics, or to those who are perennially young and idealistic, or childish, like me. If one is caught unprepared, the realities of life can be overwhelming, if not disappointing.

And yet, I tell myself, the earlier we see this, the better, for we get more time to prepare for it. We have more time to work up the courage to confront it, face it, and stare at it boldly in the face. We may make mistakes along the way (and you bet, I was scared to make mistakes), but at least it may also mean we are learning life's important lessons earlier in the game. The earlier we rise from our deep slumber of dreaming, fantasizing and other forms of escape (how many of us simply hunker down to the routine of game shows and telenovelas, Hollywood movies, malls, Internet and, of course, alcohol?), the earlier we can redeem our lost souls.

Thoreau once observed how "the mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation." This is the mass of lost souls, and I was one of them. Many of us pray for the souls of our dead loved ones, and yet so very few take a pause and think about the lost souls among the living. I don't mean the criminals or the crooks. I mean us, the average guy like you and me who died long ago in the hustle and bustle of life, in the middle of traffic, after a grueling job interview, after failing some major exam, after a failed relationship, after being spurned by a lover or a spouse for another partner overseas, or after having to stop going to school to attend chemotherapy sessions, or after losing a job, after marrying some girl one got pregnant but whom one doesn't really love or marrying some guy with a US visa but whom one doesn't really love, or after realizing that one is doomed to hold on to a job one had never imagined seeking, or getting lost in the pile of credit cards and cell-phone bills, or in a career dead end, or—simply finding that life is so unfair (sounds familiar?).

With our fantasy world shattered, our lost souls start to wander around aimlessly, blaming the government for not making things happen for us, blaming grandparents for not being filthy rich (so we don't have to find a job), blaming our parents for not passing on to us high IQs or land titles and fat bank accounts, or blaming our religion or our neighbors' religion for the typhoon and terrorist attacks, or blaming some embassy for not giving us the visa we desperately need, or blaming our skin color for the attention we do not get—the litany of excuses and defenses can go on endlessly. And instead of getting a grip on our lives, we sedate ourselves with regular noontime shows, with the latest bestseller, or with the idea that we have hundreds(!) of caring friends, thanks to our friendster accounts, or with videoke sessions, shopping sprees, etc. Well, sedatives can be very expensive.

So, I would rather die. The dreamer and her illusions have to go, the lost soul must rest in peace, so that I can start the real business of living—traffic jam, oil price hikes and all. Not a bad move, I guess, to take life one day at a time, to slowly carve a niche in the world of honest work, to stop and smell the flowers every now and then, and to hope that peace of mind, of a mind awake and conscious, might not be elusive after all. Who knows, but in time my heart will sing again, videoke-style, not Eric Clapton's but Frank Sinatra's "I did it my way"—hopefully, with just a few regrets to mention.

Meanwhile, I say, "Gather ye rosebuds while ye may." As Robert Herrick would advise, let us make much of our time, for "this same flower that smiles to-day, to-morrow will be dying."

Eda Lou S. Ibasco, 25, teaches philosophy and literature at a university in Metro Manila.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Lost respect

"I have lost my respect for her. She has allowed Cabinet officials [who attended the recent Senate hearing on the ZTE deal] who were her alter egos to perjure themselves for five hours. So from then on, I lost my respect."

—Joey de Venecia, when asked why he no longer referred to Ms Arroyo as "my President"

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

Room for reform at Comelec

THE RESIGNATION OF CHAIR Benjamin Abalos has provided the Arroyo administration with the opportunity to reform the Commission on Elections. Alleged irregularities in past elections have badly tarnished its reputation and image.

The cleansing can start with the appointment of a new chair. A more effective and far-reaching solution may involve the voluntary resignation of the remaining commissioners. This will be a supreme act of selflessness, sacrifice and patriotism. Their voluntary act of resignation will not carry the stigma of guilt or any wrongdoing. It will allow the administration to fill all the ensuing vacancies and start with a clean slate. The aftermath will be a new beginning and, hopefully, a fresh wind of change in the electoral process of our country. The appointments of a new chair and six commissioners should, however, veer from the minimum requirements stipulated in the Constitution, a change that will not require amending the Charter.

The reforms are:

1. The Comelec should render a decision or resolution of any case or matter brought before it within 45 days from the date of its submission for decision or resolution.

The shortened period will be expeditious, without sacrificing efficiency. It will also minimize opportunities for compromises and concessions.

2. The chair and six commissioners, who shall be natural-born citizens of the Philippines, should be 40 years of age, members of the Philippine Bar who have engaged in the practice of law for at least 10 years, and must not have been candidates for any elective position in the immediately preceding elections.

At the earliest, a law school graduate is 24 years old. The Bar review takes at least one year and a 10-year law practice coincides with age 35. The required minimum age of 40 years factors in maturity and experience. Most cases brought before the Comelec come within the purview of law and its interpretation. It is a quasi-judicial body.

The Constitution allows that the majority of the chair and six commissioners shall be members of the Philippine Bar, with 10 years law practice. However, the minimum requirement of a college degree limits flexibility in case assignments.

3. The chair and the commissioners shall be appointed by the President from a list of at least three nominees prepared by the Judicial and Bar Council for every vacancy. The terms of office of the chair and the commissioners shall be seven years without reappointment.

The selection process, akin to that of the one for justices of the Supreme Court, augurs well for stability, independence and credibility. The Comelec can influence the election of members of the executive and legislative branches of government. In the wrong hands, the Comelec can destabilize a nation.

—**APOLONIO G. RAMOS,**
42 Mindanao St.,
Marikina City

Cheaper drugs: How safe will they be?

I AM A PRACTICING PEDIATRICIAN, academician and researcher. Recently, I had patients who asked about the bill on cheaper medicines.

Are the cheaper drugs just as good as the "innovators"? Interestingly, this issue was never taken up by the lawmakers. In other words, it is presumed that all generic drugs are the same. But how do you assure the public of the quality of drugs being sold?

The Orange Book of the US Food and Drug Administration contains a complete list of drugs that require "bioequivalence" (BE) testing (before they are classified as the same as their respective innovators). In the Philippines, it took several years before the moratorium on BE was lifted and it is taking a longer time for a lot of the local pharmaceutical companies (whether local manufacturers or importers of finished products) to have many of their drugs tested for BE. While dissolution testing can serve as surrogate markers, they are not the gold standard for claiming BE.

According to these companies, the cost of a BE test is the major issue. It is not. A BE test would cost between P800,000 and P2.5 million, depending on the compound and the equipment to be used. But this is a small price to pay—compared to how much they spend for promotions and "field trips" of doctors and pharmacists and pharmacy owners—to assure the public that the drugs they make, distribute and sell are equally effective as the innovator brand.

Government officials cannot use the sorry excuse that there are not enough testing centers here. In 1996, AusAID funded the Philippine program on National Drug Policy for the transfer of BE testing technology. The first BE center was established in the University of Santo Tomas. Thereafter, two other centers were formed—in the Philippine General Hospital and De La Salle University-Emilio Aguinaldo. This program was funded in order to preserve the "Quality Assurance" pillar on drugs manufactured, distributed and sold in the Philippines.

Almost a decade later, while the Filipinos clamor for cheaper drugs—and rightly so—the question still remains. With so much at stake here, how are we to assure the public that the generic drugs that are being sold in the local market are bioequivalent? I believe that our health and government authorities must remember the saying that "the most expensive drug is the one that doesn't work."

While we are all supportive of a bill that provides Filipinos access to cheaper drugs, let there be a supporting guideline that will ensure the quality of cheaper drugs. Otherwise, the Filipino public will end up on the losing end of a cheaper drugs law.

—**BENJAMIN G. CO, MD, FPPS,**
FPSECP,
executive director,
Center for Drug Research,
Evaluation and Studies Inc.,
University of Santo Tomas,
España, Manila;
chair, Pharmacy and Therapeutics
Committee, Asian Hospital
and Medical Center Inc.

'Back off' agri deals with China

AGRICULTURE SECRETARY Arthur Yap told the members of the Senate that the government has suspended the RP-China agribusiness deals that would allow the lease of more than a million hectares of agricultural lands to Chinese corporations. We, however, believe that the government should totally "back-off" from these agribusiness negotiations.

First of all, it is illegal, as pointed out by Sen. Edgardo Angara, for a corporation to lease more than 1,000 hectares. Secondly, we should focus on planting crops needed by local industries and Filipino consumers, not on those required by other countries. Thirdly, it is not clear what lands are being committed by the government to the Chinese. Are these lands not being tilled by our indigenous brothers and sisters, upland farmers or agrarian reform beneficiaries? Are these lands not covered by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program? This is one major fear of agrarian reform advocates: The RP-China agribusiness deal might be used once more as a pretext by the Department of Agrarian Reform to exempt the lands of big landowners and agribusiness firms.

We call on the government to cancel the agribusiness deals with the Chinese government and focus its efforts on distributing the remaining lands under CARP, on achieving food self-sufficiency and on promoting organic farming.

—**RAFFY REY HIPOLITO,**
advocacy officer,
Partnership for Agrarian Reform
& Rural Development Services,
85-A K-10th street, Kamias, QC

PAMPANGA Gov. Ed Panlilio shows reporters the P500,000 handed to him in Malacañang. FILE PHOTO

Priest-governor has healthy outlook on governance

AT FIRST, I THOUGHT THAT A priest in public office would not bring new politics in the country. I was wrong. I laud religious and public servant Eddie Panlilio for exposing the depths of Malacañang's corruption and for proving that he has a sound, logical outlook on governance, even after the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP) had issued statements that the mysterious money bags that were distributed in a meeting at the Palace came from the organization; and that it was given as a gesture of goodwill to needy, neophyte governors.

It is not only LPP's silence for 12 days that makes the LPP statements dubious. The timing of the act points a guilty finger at the chief resident of the Palace. The fiction spun by LPP leaders Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone and Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes as to the source of the money makes them equally culpable. These LPP leaders now ask for the return of the money for Panlilio's "peace of mind." What gall! This can only be a manifestation of sick minds.

—**MIRIAM AZURIN-ABAJA,**
mayangmagiliw@yahoo.com

NFA's abolition won't make good economic, social sense

THIS REFERS TO THE ARTICLE of Mahar Mangahas titled "A new hunger record." (INQUIRER, 10/6/07)

I am a farmer with several parcels of agricultural land. I have devoted most of my time to farming—more particularly to the production of palay. As a farmer-leader, it is my responsibility to keep my members and my constituents aware of the issues affecting their everyday life.

I was, therefore, quite bothered by Mangahas' suggestion to abolish "the age-old legal monopoly of the National Food Authority on international trade in rice and corn," saying that this "would be an excellent move towards winning the war on hunger."

To be sure, the government has been making headway in its war on hunger. But I find most disconcerting the issues that Mangahas raised with his call for the abolition of the NFA.

First, that the NFA gets in the way of the free market. Without the NFA, how could we consumers "take advantage of the lowest price for imported rice and corn at any time"? In Thailand, the market price of rice is 10 baht per kilo, which is equivalent to P14 in the Philippines. Assuming this is the lowest price, would Thai rice be priced lower than P18 if it were imported into the Philippines by the private sector?

Second, that the NFA is a huge financial burden. An Australian study, Partnership for Economic Governance and Reforms (PEGR), found that the NFA incurred 80 percent of its losses due to policy directions (e.g., import tariffs, projects without budget cover) and only 20 percent due to operations (e.g., importation of rice from Thailand with a landed cost of P23). The NFA mandate has nothing to do with its huge financial losses.

Third, that the NFA is a milking cow. I am the chair of the farmers' cooperative in our locality. Our members actively participate in the various programs of the NFA. During the wet season when the price of palay is low, we deliver our produce to the NFA. We are recipients of the Cooperative Development Incentive Fee (CDIF). We are beneficiaries of yearly Institutionalized Farmers As Distributors (Ifad) and Farmers Incentive on Rice (FAIR) programs. These have been proven to be beneficial to our cooperative and its members. The mandate of the NFA is to ensure food security and to stabilize the supply and prices of staple cereal.

Fourth, how will the abolition of the NFA make good economic sense? And because hunger is such a widespread problem, how will abolition also make good social sense at this time? Is the private sector ready and willing to undertake the social responsibility of the government, which the NFA is mandated to fulfill?

—**NONI LATOG,**
provincial board member,
District 2,
Sultan Kudarat;
provincial president,
Provincial Farmers
Advisory Council, Sultan Kudarat

Estrada pardon: No wonder people leave the country

I AM EXPRESSING MY DISAPPOINTMENT with how President Macapagal-Arroyo granted ousted President Joseph Estrada a quick pardon. I was in Baguio City when his impeachment trial started and I joined all the people who spilled out into the streets when the senators voted not to open that infamous second envelope. And I was very proud to be a Filipino when Estrada was convicted.

But in the blink of an eye, the government granted him pardon. The pardon made me cringe and proved to me that, in the Philippines, politics sucks. No wonder, people, including myself, are leaving our country. But I still love the Philippines. That's why I feel compelled to write this letter and say what I feel.

—**KAT CANUTO,**
kathme05@yahoo.co.nz

Corruption in high offices 'normal'

IT SENT SHIVERS DOWN MY spine to hear former Manila Mayor Lito Atienza admit on nationwide TV that he too used to receive cash gifts from Malacañang and that he found this to be "normal" practice because the money represented "support" for the projects of the government official-recipient.

There is a world of difference between "support" released through proper channels and with documentation that clearly shows the source of funds, who received the funds and for what these are; and cash in a gift bag that is un-receipted and undocumented.

For our government officials to display such blatant disregard of the basic rules of accountability and transparency is, to me, proof that corruption in the highest offices does exist—and the crooks who perpetuate it believe not only that they can get away with it, but that it is perfectly "normal."

—**STELLA SANTOS,**
stellasantos@yahoo.com

A resounding 'Wow' for Pangalangan

THIS IS MY REACTION TO RAUL Pangalangan's column titled "That schools may become dream weavers." As a professed armchair critic of the contemporary scene, all I can say is, "Wow!"

I was a public elementary and high school teacher for 31 years since 1941 and a secondary school principal for 12 years before I retired in 1984. His column validated what I have long been advocating:

1. That the Department of Education be decentralized and the regional directors be given leeway in procuring textbooks and equipment.

2. That the "apathetic laid-back" school principals be empowered; that they remove their blinders and dependence on DepEd rules and regulations; that they rely on their own instincts according to the resources at hand; that they involve the parents, barangays, local government officials (e.g., their district councilors) in solving their particular problems.

3. That parents who "totally abdicate the task of teaching" be more pro-active and get involved in the process of education. They should help put up and maintain a healthier and more learning-conducive school environment. They should be the first teachers of good values.

4. That teachers serve as facilitators of learning, not providers of knowledge who are happy to be models of values in all subjects—be it Math, Science or Language—because values are not taught but assimilated day-by-day, in classrooms and in campuses.

I particularly am very affected by the description of teachers being the "dream weavers" in their classrooms, for it is right inside the four walls where they are not only the mother and father figure of each child but also the fairy godmother who can inspire the student to discover the God-given talents that will make him or her soar to the beautiful world outside and to the universe beyond.

The Cyber Ed program has its merits but even without it, our educational system and our test scores will soar if only the four "doables" above are indeed pursued.

—**CONSUELO D. SISON,**
rotarian,
Rotary Club of Loyola Heights,
Quezon City

'I follow my conscience!'

COMMENTARY

John J. Carroll, S.J.
John J. Carroll Institute on Church and Social Issues

"MY CONSCIENCE IS CLEAR!" HOW OFTEN this claim is trumpeted by politicians and others accused of wrongdoing. Yet a moment of thought exposes its emptiness. We are all sinners, as the Lord reminds us in the parable of the Pharisee and Publican. The Pharisee stands up in the Temple, thanks God that he is not like the rest of men, and tells God of his virtues and good deeds: he fasts three times a week, pays his taxes and so forth. It is understood in the Gospel that he actually does all of this. The problem is that he dares to stand up and as it were tell God: "You should be proud of me."

The Publican on the other hand, who is engaged in a dishonorable occupation very much open to oppression and injustice, simply strikes his breast and prays, "O God, be merciful to me, a sinner." The Lord goes on to tell us that he, and not the Pharisee, went home justified in the eyes of the Lord.

The point is that no one who honestly reviews his or her actions before the Lord can say: "My conscience is clear." We are all sinners, and many of the great saints have been great sinners before their conversion, and even after it were deeply aware of their faults and failings before the Lord.

Conscience is the ultimate sanctuary, the citadel, of the individual, where alone he or she faces the Creator. Conscience is sacred. It is there, in that sanctuary alone with one's God, that one defines who he or she is. It is there that, if we are honest, we recognize our own sinfulness as did the Publican. It is there that, in making a decision, one says: "I am making this decision and I am ready to stand with it in my hands before the judgment seat of God."

In a collection of seminar papers entitled "A Balancing Act: Social and Catholic Perspectives on Population and Development," edited by our Institute, the primacy of conscience in making moral decisions with regard to family size is taken up by two of the writers. Fr. Ramon D. Echica lays the groundwork by pointing out a long-standing theological tradition emphasizing conscience as the ultimate guide to moral life. He cites St. Thomas Aquinas to the effect that even if Church authorities should mistakenly order one to do something against his or her conscience, the individual should refuse and if necessary die in excommunication without the sacraments.

This emphatically does not mean, however, that one can say—as we sometimes hear said in connection with contraception—"never mind the Church's teaching. I follow my conscience." The Church's teaching is a guide for conscience, and a guide that must be respected even if not followed. Thus, one could perhaps decide in the face of particularly difficult circumstances—some of which are discussed by Fr. Eric Marcelo O. Genilo, S.J. in the collection mentioned above—that in this case the prohibition of contraception does not apply. But even here, one must do so with respect. He or she should reflect on the Church's teaching and the reasons behind it, to the best of his or her ability, and seek advice before making a decision with which he or she will stand alone before God.

There is great danger of self-deception in this matter. As G. K. Chesterton said, "when Jones follows the inner light, he mostly follows Jones." Moreover a whole culture or sub-culture can incorporate false moral judgments. My predecessors in the Jesuit Province of Maryland in the United States, for example, were slaveholders, and some vigorously defended its morality. Having been brought up in a slave-holding society it was easy for them to see this institution as "natural" and the Blacks incapable of fending for themselves as free men and women. In segments of the youth and media cultures of today, casual sex is seen as normal. And the modern tendency to exalt the individual and his or her freedom can ultimately mean a "Declaration of Independence" even before God which is contrary to any religious worldview whether the latter be Christian, Muslim, or Jew.

One of the functions then of the Church is to help its members to see beyond selfishness and culture, to prepare individuals to make free decisions in accord with God's law as reflected in the dignity and rights of the human person. With regard to contraception this is not a matter of Church law; rather it reflects an insight into the dignity, even the sacredness of the act by which a couple cooperates with God in bringing a new human being into existence. Its dignity is not to be debased by interference with the natural process, which can lead to the sacred act becoming just a game, at times oppressive and exploitative, with the woman merely a sex object.

For those who with good reason, and not for mere selfishness, wish to have no more children at this time, the Church recommends natural family planning, based on an awareness of the woman's fertility cycle and involving discipline and the cooperation of both husband and wife. When properly practiced, modern natural family planning methods rival contraceptives in reliability. More than just a technique, however, it builds on and strengthens mutuality in decision-making and mutual respect, fundamental human values.

Here as elsewhere, however, the ultimate decision lies with the consciences of the individual and the couple, standing before God.

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
2nd Floor, Los Baños Bldg.
Cor. Peñaranda and Aguinaldo Sts.
Legazpi City
Telefax No. (052) 480-4182
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph **Website:** www.inquirer.net/regions

Across the NATION

Text us your feedback: inquirer atn name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) *Assistant Editor* **Tony Bergonia**

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

Comelec tells citizens: Arrest Bedol

DENNIS JAY SANTOS/INQUIRER MINDANAO

LONELY TASK
A polling precinct in Davao City lay empty except for one voter at past noon of Oct. 29, an indication of the low turnout of voters for the barangay and youth council elections in the city.

COTABATO CITY—TOP COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS officials called on people to make a citizens' arrest on wanted election officer Lintang Bedol, who police said was armed.

Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao, ARMM police regional director, said Bedol, wanted by the Comelec for contempt of court, is no longer in Cotabato City.

"That is why we sought the help of other police units in the country," Goltiao said.

"We continue to look for him but we can't pinpoint his exact whereabouts as of now. He is in hiding but he cannot hide from the law forever."

While admitting Bedol was armed, Goltiao said he was not dangerous as he has only one or two licensed firearms.

Goltiao added that the Task Force Bedol has been receiving vital information on the controversial election supervisor's whereabouts.

"We check and counter-check everything. In due time, hopefully, he will surrender for his own sake," Goltiao said.

The poll body issued an arrest order for Bedol on Oct. 22 but the ARMM police received the copy on Oct. 24, or four days after he reportedly left with four armed men from his home in Cotabato City.

Resurrecion Borra, acting Comelec chair, said Bedol is now a fugitive and his arrest by anyone would be as good as the police's.

"As long as he's incarcerated," said Borra.

Bedol faces six months in jail for contempt of the Comelec after he defied an order for him to present documents on election results in Maguindanao that were allegedly tampered with to favor then administration candidate for senator Juan Miguel Zubiri.

Bedol was accused by election watchdog groups and candidate Koko Pimentel of manipulating the results of the elections in Maguindanao by tactics as brazen as stealing election documents and replacing their contents.

Borra said in a briefing earlier that the poll body has passed a resolution demanding from the PNP the immediate implementation of the arrest of Bedol, or also face contempt charges from the Comelec.

Goltiao, he said, should now explain to the commission why he has not yet apprehended Bedol despite having been informed ahead about the arrest order.

"If he can't do his job then we can charge him with contempt. We don't want him to dilly-dally on this," said Borra, adding that once Goltiao receives the resolution, he is compelled to arrest Bedol within 24 hours or face charges from the Comelec.

Borra reminded Goltiao that the Comelec's orders to the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Armed Forces of Philippines (AFP) take precedence over any other agency except for *habeas corpus* cases, since the country is still within an election period.

Election period for the just-concluded synchronized Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections started last Sept. 29 until Nov. 13. *Beverly Natividad in Manila and Edwin O. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao*

Eastern Visayas folk warned of floods, slides

By Vicente S. Labro
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—THE OFFICE of Civil Defense in Eastern Visayas has again warned people to be alert against floods and landslides as more rains and typhoons are expected in the next few months.

Rey Gozon, OCD regional administrative officer, said that based on data, Eastern Visayas is very prone to typhoons during the last quarter of the year and the first quarter of the following year.

Continuous heavy rains could put in peril the lives of people living in low-lying areas due to flash floods and those at the foot of mountains with steep slopes due to landslides, he said.

Gozon said it is important that people recognize signs of impending disasters and immediately move to safer grounds if they feel their lives are threatened.

People from disaster-prone areas in the region have recently attended disaster preparedness seminars initiated by the regional OCD and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) and the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

PATEK PHILIPPE
GENEVE
Begin your *own* tradition.

You never actually own a Patek Philippe.

You merely look after it for the *next* generation.

The legendary 1970's Patek Philippe porthole-inspired design has evolved. A new, large-size case locks in the self-winding movement with power reserve, date and moon-phase display. The Nautilus, an inspiring icon, is reborn. Ref. 5712/1A.
Tel: (65) 6732 1506. www.patek.com

A call for UNITY and PEACE

A statement of the Kongreso ng Mamamayan para sa Pagkakaisa at Kapayapaan - Pampanga

THERE IS NO DENYING that the Philippine economy is on the upswing. The indicators are most pronounced:

- The country's gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 7.5 percent in the second quarter of the year from 5.5 percent in the same period last year. The gross domestic product (GNP) also grew by 8.3 percent during the same period, as compared to 6.4 percent in 2006. Both are record growths, the highest in decades.
- The peso continues its climb versus the dollar. The latest was at P43.675 to US$1, the highest in seven years.
- The Philippine Stock Market made history in terms of growth. It registered its highest record since it was established in 1927.
- The infrastructure sector is in a boom. Mega infrastructure projects are now being simultaneously implemented in the super regions. (The province of Pampanga and the entire of Central Luzon are now, in fact, beneficiaries of this frenzied infrastructure build-up and development.)
- Because of the improved fiscal position of the country as a result of the economic reforms of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, more investments and expenditures are now poured to basic social services and human development.

The President has also consistently extended the hand of reconciliation to all anti-government forces, and has made dramatic inroads in forging a peace agreement with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). Efforts are likewise exerted at reaching out to the mainstream opposition headed by former President Joseph Estrada.

IT SADDENS US, however, that certain sectors have not let go of their blind obsession and desperate attempts at grabbing power even through foul means. The recent call of certain individuals to dismantle the current democratic institutions in favor of a junta is shocking as it is nauseating. These people fashion themselves as champions of democracy, but they have become so desperate they now prefer naked dictatorship and authoritarianism to rule our country again, just for them to have a piece of the pie – and probably eat it too.

It also saddens us that certain personalities have allowed themselves, either out of naivety or ambition, to be part of this desperate cabal.

THUS RISE THE PEOPLE OF PAMPANGA to collectively declare our resolve to fight against the renewed destabilization attempts of certain sectors against the constitutional government – and to support and fight as well for reconciliation and peace. Only through reconciliation and peace can we have genuine and sustainable progress.

We call on the rest of our people to join us. Our country needs respite from the political bickering and maneuvering to grab power.

ISULONG ANG KAUNLARAN!

PAGKAKAISA AT KAPAYAPAAN: ITAGUYOD AT IPAGLABAN!

KONGRESO NG MAMAMAYAN PARA SA PAGKAKAISA AT KAPAYAPAAN - PAMPANGA

CONVENORS: **Jess Nicdao**, Pampanga Chamber of Commerce and Incoming Governor, Rotary Club Dist. 3790; **Frankie Villanueva**, President, Clark Investors and Locators Association; **Alexander S. Cauguiran**, Progressive and Responsive Organization for Genuine Leadership Outstanding Reform Initiative and Action (PRO-GLORIA); **Rep. Carmelo Lazatin**, 1st District of Pampanga; Pampanga; **Rep. Anna York P. Bondoc,** 4th District of Pampanga; **Rep. Aurelio "Dong" Gonzales Jr.**, 3rd District of Pampanga; **Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo,** 2nd District of Pampanga; **Pampanga Vice Governor Joseller "Yeng" Guiao**; Board Members, **Crisostomo Garbo, Catalina Bagasina, Tarcicio Halili, Ceferino Laus, Karl Domingo, Arthur Salalila, Edna David, Ricardo Yabut, Nelson Calara, Raul Macalino, Cesar Magat, Salvador Dimson III** and **Johnny Quiambao;** Pampanga Mayors' League – **Dennis Pineda** – Lubao, **Romeo Dungca, Jr.** – Bacolor, **Jerry Pelayo** – Candaba, **Luis Espino** – Arayat, **Rommel Concepion** – Sta. Ana, **Rodrigo Canlas** – San Simon, **Yolanda Pineda** – Sta. Rita, **Lyndon Cunanan** – Magalang, **Eduardo Guerrero** – Floridablanca, **Joselito Naguit** – Sto. Tomas, **Oscar Tetangco Jr.** – Apalit, **Peter Flores** – Masantol, **Leonardo Flores** – Macabebe, **Jayson Sagum** – San Luis, **Edgardo Flores** – Minalin, **Marino Morales** – Mabalacat, **Teddy Tumang** – Mexico, **Rogelio Santos** – Porac; **Ricardo Rivera** – Guagua, **Nardo Velasco** – Sasmuan, **Oscar Rodriguez** – San Fernando City; **Mayor Francisco Nepomuceno, Jr.**, Angeles City; Vice Mayors League of Pampanga led by its President **Eduardo Datu**, Vice Mayor **Vicky Vega Kabigting** – Angeles City; **Edgardo D. Pamintuan**, Chairman, Subic-Clark Alliance for Development Council; **Ed Panlilio**, President, Rotary Club Angeles; **Fredie So,** President, Angeles City Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry; **Irrigators' Association of Pampanga; Bong Lacson**, Chairman, Society of Pampanga Columnists; **Deng Pangilinan**, Chairman, Mabalacat Water District; **Andoy Soliman**, Malayang Magsasaka ng Central Luzon; **Malayang Lola ng Candaba; Kabataan Para sa Ikakauunlad ng Pampanga**; **Sócrates Sabile,** National Vice President, Jaycees International (JCI); **Gen. Romeo David**, KAPANALIG Foundation; **Arch. Nestor Mangio,** President, Aguman Capampangan Foundation, Presiding Elder, Spirit of Love Catholic Community-Metro Angeles, CREBA Director; **Florencio Pingul,** President, Pampanga Houseware and Homedecor Association, **Jay Sangil** and **Rudy Simeon** – Angeles City Councilors; **Dr. Emmanuel Y. Angeles,** Chancellor, Angeles University Foundation; **John Sambo,** Contractors Association of Pampanga; **Atty. Imelda Quiambao Tuazon,** President, Integrated Bar of the Philippines-Pampanga Chapter; **Atty. Josep Miranda**, past president, Integrated Bar of the Philippines Pampanga Chapter; **Jack Uy,** Go Negosyo awardee; **Jose Flores**, past president, Rotary Club of Angeles City, **Dr. Irineo "Bong" Alvaro**; **Senen Quiambao,** National President, JCI Senate, Inc.; **Reghies Romero II,** RII Group of Companies and Knights of Rizal past president; **Dr. Romeo Taruc**, Chairman Hukvets Inc. **Dr. Mario Muñoz**; **Mon Guiang,** National Secretary General, Aguman ng Kapampangan; **Victor Jose Luciano,** former World President, Jaycees International; **Yolanda Reyes,** Chair. United Architects of the Philippines-Pampanga; **Ronnie Silvestre,** past President, Don Bosco Alumni Association; **Liberato Laus,** Chairman, Pampanga Chamber of Commerce; **Andy Mañalac,** National Real Estate Association of the Philippines; **Eddel Pasumbal,** President, Don Bosco Alumni Association of Pampanga; and many more.

Bilang paglulunsad ng kilusang para sa pagkakaisa at kapayapaan, ang Kongreso ng Mamamayan para sa Pagkakaisa at Kapayapaan - Pampanga ay magsasagawa ng isang malawakang pagtitipon sa ika-6 ng Nobyembre 2007 sa Paskuhan Village, City of San Fernando, Pampanga, ika-10 ng umaga. Inaanyayahan namin ang lahat na nagpapahalaga sa pagkakaisa at kapayapaan na sumama sa amin.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Group held without charge appeals for release

CALAMBA CITY—FIVE FARMERS, who are accused of plotting to overthrow the government and are being held by police here for one year and seven months now, are challenging President Macapagal-Arroyo to release them like convicted plunderer Joseph Estrada.

"We challenge Arroyo to take serious steps in achieving reconciliation and unity in the country by releasing those imprisoned for their political beliefs," the farmers, collectively known as Tagaytay 5, said in a statement released on Monday.

After Estrada's pardon, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines and the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) asked Ms Arroyo to release other prisoners, particularly those detained for their political beliefs.

The five—Rico Ybañez, Aris Sarmiento, Axel Pinpin, Riel Custodio and Michael Masayes—welcomed the CBCP and KMU statements.

They claimed that they were members of the Cavite farmers' group Kalipunan ng mga Magsasaka sa Kabite (Kamagsasaka-Ka) and not of the communist New People's Army as alleged by authorities.

They, however, said they were calling for their release and not pardon. "We have not been convicted yet and we know we have not committed any crime."

The group asked Ms Arroyo to grant freedom to those who were opposing her administration.

"It is ironic that GMA calls for genuine unity by granting executive clemency to Estrada, while most of us (political prisoners) are rotting here in jail," the farmers said.

They said her call for the release of Burma's political prisoner Aung San Suu Kyi also contradicted her government's treatment of political prisoners.

In March, the five launched an indefinite fasting and hunger strike to condemn alleged inhuman conditions in the camp.

They said that until now, nothing had changed, except for their weekly outdoor exercise.

According to them, their condition has worsened since their friends and colleagues are now barred from visiting them.

Camp Vicente Lim has a policy that only immediate relatives could visit the prisoners.

"We could not understand this kind of policy that basically deprives us of our prison rights," the Tagaytay 5 said.

They said some of them have families who are far from Laguna, so their visitors are mostly friends and colleagues.

In October, some militant organizations, including the KMU and Migrante, were not allowed to visit the group.

In a related development, the human rights group Karapatan has asked the Commission on Human Rights to investigate soldiers of the Philippine Air Force's 740th Combat Group, who allegedly listed the names of its leaders in its "Order of Battle" and violated their constitutional rights.

In an Oct. 9 letter to CHR Chair Purificacion Quisumbing, Karapatan-Batangas alleged that on Aug. 10, in a meeting of the local interagency committee at the Lipa City Hall, a certain Lt. Lyndon Del Rosario of the PAF spoke before a group of railway settlers in the city.

It claimed that Del Rosario listed the names of top 10 personalities in Batangas who were tagged by the military as fronts of the NPA.

Arman Albarillo, secretary general of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan–Southern Tagalog (Bayan-ST), however, said the names were those of legitimate leaders of militant organizations. *Niña Catherine Calleja with a report from Marlon Alexander Luistro, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Mushroom farm sends Aeta folk to school

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

PASTOR Albert de la Cruz gives mushroom-growing lecture to farmers in San Luis, Pampanga.
PHOTOS BY TONETTE OREJAS/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON

FLORIDABLANCA, PAMPANGA—Sisters Annie and Arlene Mercado, and 12 other Aeta in Sitio Nabuklod in Barangay Camachile here, are in school this year, care of the weekly sales from a mushroom farm that two Baptist and Methodist pastors began in the mountain village a year ago.

The farm earns P3,000 to P6,000 a week and the money goes to the tuition, transportation and food allowance of the scholars, said Baptist pastor Albert de la Cruz, 32.

Ten of them, like Annie, have enrolled in high school. Another is taking up education. Three others, including Arlene, are studying at the Emmanuel Bible School in Capas, Tarlac.

Top student

Annie, a second year student at the Floridablanca National Agricultural School, is the top student in her class.

The rest are also doing well in their studies, proving that the Aeta can excel if given opportunities, said Arlene, 18, who is preparing herself to be a missionary.

On Saturday, like other days in her two-week break, she spent time teaching Christian music to her wards at the United Methodist Church's chapel.

"They should be a good choir," she says.

Arlene says training the children is her way of instilling discipline that they should apply when they study.

The mushroom growing project, she says, is a "blessing" to them.

"We thought of starting this to support the livelihood of the Aeta," says De la Cruz.

By "we," he meant he and his wife, Leslie, a Methodist pastor who started the Camachile mission in September 2005.

Difficult life

In coming to the village, the couple realized that the Aeta remained hard up even as they had returned to their village a year after the 1991 eruptions of Mt. Pinatubo.

The volcano is less than 10 km west of Camachile. The village is some 20 km from the town proper, accessible through unpaved roads and a rundown wooden bridge.

"Life is still hard because we lack agricultural tools," says Rodolfo Santos, a village councilor.

Santos, also an Aeta, said the village's children are benefiting from projects that the De la Cruzes began on a P30,000 capital.

"Those kids would not have been in school if not for the mushrooms," he says.

No announcements

The missionaries work quietly, never announcing the good deed that they have started out here.

The INQUIRER learned of their project when it joined the visit of farmers who wanted to do the same project as an alternative source of income in their village of Sta. Cruz Poblacion in San Luis, an eastern Pampanga town.

Aeta farmer Carlito Romualdo, 50, has helped nurture the project to success, says De la Cruz.

Romualdo has been the farm's caretaker since it was established.

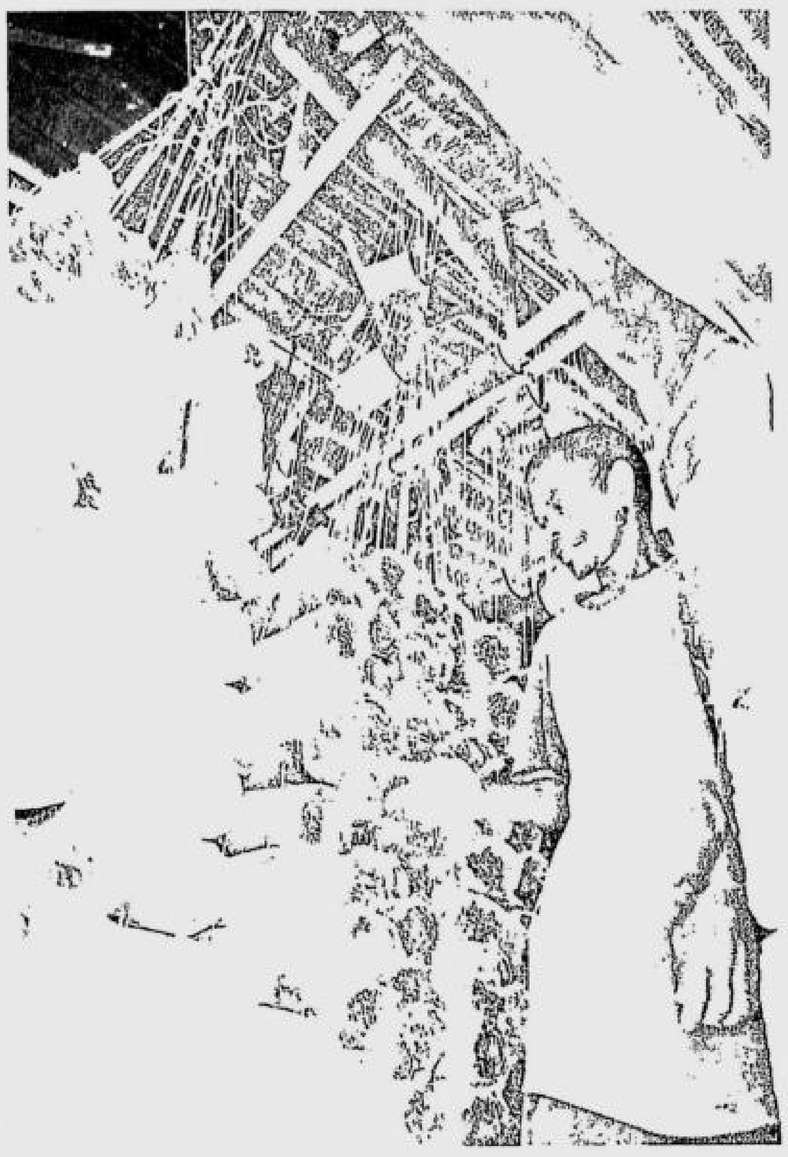
The scholars help in the farm on weekends. A Korean store in Angeles City and the couple's friends buy the mushrooms.

"I feel good that this project is helping the kids get an education which I did not manage to have in my time," Romualdo says.

Mushrooms everywhere

Beginning with just 100 bags where the mushrooms are grown, Romualdo, the De la Cruz couple and Leslie's brother, Louie, have increased the bags to at least 2,000 now.

They learned the technology from Dr. Renato Reyes, now dean of Central Luzon State University's College of Arts and Sciences and former director of CLSU's Center for Tropical Mushroom Research and Development.



CARLITO Romualdo stands beside bags of mushrooms that support the education of 14 Aetas in Camachile village in Floridablanca, Pampanga.

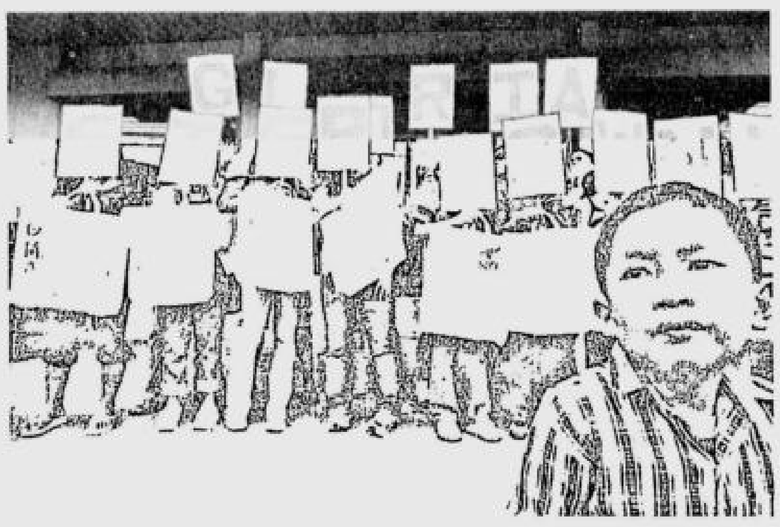
Reyes gave a three-day workshop to the Aeta, says De la Cruz, a CLSU graduate and a native of the Science City of Muñoz.

The varieties *Volvariella volvae* (kabuteng dayami) and *Pleurotus sajor-caju* (kabuteng pamaypay) are what the Aeta grow in the village.

Romualdo and De la Cruz take turns culturing the mushroom's tissues in bottles of slightly cooked *palay* grains. The mixing of rice bran, dried banana leaves and wood shavings; tissue planting; and farm management are done by other residents in the village.

"It entails a lot of work but it really is helping the kids," says Romualdo.

GMA backers temper rally vs junta



CALLS FOR the President's ouster continue and are revived as one scandal after another hounds her administration.
JESS YUSON

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The People's Congress for Unity and Peace that will be convened here today by supporters of President Macapagal-Arroyo has revised its manifesto by not naming the people clamoring for a junta in place of her administration.

The manifesto's final draft, published in a local daily on Monday, also edited a portion that, in the view of some officials, insinuated that Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio was backing those who supported the establishment of a junta.

Erased names

Minus the names of former Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. and a few bishops, part of the published manifesto read: "The recent call of certain individuals to dismantle the current democratic institutions in favor of a junta is shocking as it is nauseating."

In the part that alluded to Panlilio, the phrase "here in Pampanga" was removed and appeared as: "It also saddens us that certain personalities have allowed themselves, out of naivete or ambition, to be part of this desperate cabal."

Alex Cauguiran, national secretary general of the Progressive and Responsive Organization for Genuine Leadership, Outstanding Reform Initiative and Action (Pro-Gloria), said the convenors on Sunday "decided to make no reference to any personalities."

"We also don't want to have anything to do with any local squabble. That would be divisive," he said.

He said the aim of the congress is that "none of our political leaders will support the junta or any destabilization moves."

"The opposition should give the President a chance to continue with her economic reforms, to let her do these until she finishes her term [in 2010]," he said.

Squabbles

The congress, which is actually a launch of a "reconciliation and peace campaign," opens a day after the 14th Congress reopened on Monday.

Also on Monday, 10 groups were set to file two impeachment complaints against Ms Arroyo over the $329-million National Broadband Network scandal, alleged distribution of money to legislators in Malacañang on Oct. 11, human rights violations and alleged electoral fraud in the 2004 presidential election.

Cauguiran said some political leaders had expressed reservations in inviting Panlilio to be part of the convenors' group.

This stemmed from the revelation of Panlilio, a Catholic priest on leave, that he received P500,000 at the Palace on Oct. 11.

Invitations

"Among [Father] Ed has been invited. They have no problem about his presence in the [people's] congress," he said.

He said the invitations were extended to everybody by way of text messages, phone calls or paid print ads.

Panlilio and San Fernando Mayor Oscar Rodriguez, who asked that his name be removed from the list of convenors, are not attending the event at the Paskuhan Village here due to prior commitments.

While he said he opposed the junta plan, Panlilio said: "I would think twice before I attend because I don't really know their motive why I was not invited in the first place."

"It is very clear I was not made part of it from the start and all of a sudden I am invited. Is it because I am perceived to be anti-GMA, which is not true in the first place?" he said.

Rodriguez said Ms Arroyo "knows I have always supported her despite the risk to my life," referring to his work as a prosecutor in the impeachment case against former President Joseph Estrada. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

Supreme Court of the Philippines
Judicial and Bar Council
Manila

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) announces that it is still accepting applications or recommendations for the positions of **Chairman of the Legal Education Board (LEB)** and **LEB regular members**, namely, a representative of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP); a representative of the Philippine Association of Law Schools (PALS); a representative of the Philippine Association of Law Schools (PALS); a representative of the Philippine Association of Law Professors (PALP), a representative from the ranks of active law practitioners; and a representative from the law students' sector.

The LEB Chairman shall preferably be a former Justice of the Supreme Court or Court of Appeals. With the exception of the representative of the law students' sector, the Chairman and regular members of the Board must be natural-born citizens of the Philippines and members of the Philippine Bar, who have been engaged for at least ten (10) years in the practice of law, as well as in the teaching of law in a duly authorized or recognized law school (Section 4, Republic Act No. 7662).

Applications or recommendations for these positions must be submitted **NOT LATER THAN 5 December 2007** to the JBC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, Centennial Bldg., Supreme Court, Padre Faura St., Manila (Tel. No. 552-9512; Fax No. 552-9598; e-mail address **jbc@supremecourt.gov.ph**; **jbc_supremecourt@yahoo.com**). Please visit the JBC website at **http://jbc.supremecourt.gov.ph** or call the JBC Secretariat for application requirements.

31 October 2007.

MDVillarama
MA. LUISA D. VILLARAMA
Clerk of Court &
Ex-Officio Secretary

(PDI–November 6, 2007)

FREE PRINTER
FOR PLAN ₱1,295
OR FREE
1 MONTHLY FEE
FREE WEBCAM +
HEADSET + PRINTER
FOR PLAN ₱1,995
FREE WEBCAM
+ HEADSET
FOR PLAN ₱995

May instant pamasko kapag nagsubscribe!

Ang mga bagong subscribers sa Globe Broadband Plan ay may instant na regalo! Kaya magsubscribe na!

Punta na sa nearest Globelines Payments & Services Center para magsubscribe! For more details call (02) 919-8888 for Luzon, (032) 410-8888 for VisMin.

Promo period: November 6-December 31, 2007

Wired Plans	MSF	Instant Regalo
Up to 384 kbps Landline + Internet	P995	Webcam + headset or Free 1 MSF
Up to 1 Mbps Landline + Internet	P1,295	Printer or Free 1 MSF
Up to 2 Mbps Landline + Internet	P1,995	Printer + Webcam + headset or Free 1 MSF
Up to 3 Mbps Internet Only	P1,995	Printer + Webcam + headset or Free 1 MSP
Wireless Plans	MSF	Instant Regalo
Up to 512 kbps Landline + Internet	P1,295	Printer or Free 1 MSF
Up to 512 kbps Internet only	P995	Webcam + headset or Free 1 MSF

Globe™
BROADBAND

©Globe Telecom, Inc. 2007 Per DTI-NCR permit no. 5488 Series of 2007. See flyers for details.

Aplus METRO

Website: www.inquirer.net/metro
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil
Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) **E-mail:** pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

DID YOU KNOW

THE NATIONAL Labor Relations Commission, with main offices in Banawe, Quezon City, is a quasi-judicial body tasked to resolve labor disputes through mediation and compulsory arbitration. It is attached to the Department of Labor and Employment.

The current functions of the NLRC, which was created on Nov. 1, 1974 by Ferdinand Marcos' Presidential Decree No. 442, include issuing subpoenas to witnesses or requiring them to produce documents relevant to an investigation. The commission can also hold a person in contempt and impose the appropriate penalties. *Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

Binay in 2010? Too early to tell, says mayor

But Makati City's big boss says he has capability of a presidential bet

By DJ Yap

SOUNDING LIKE A MAN WITH A PLAN, MAKATI MAYOR JEJOmar Binay declared yesterday that he was qualified to run the country even as he remained coy about his political ambitions in 2010.

"Given the opportunity, let me just say that we did it in Makati, (so) we can do in the country," he said in an interview yesterday at City Hall.

But Binay, also the president of the United Opposition, said it was still too early to tell whether he would be the standard bearer of the opposition in the 2010 presidential elections.

Amid speculations that party leaders were considering fielding Binay and Sen. Jinggoy Estrada in the race for the next president and vice president, Binay said he believed he had the experience necessary to lead the country.

"Modesty aside, I think I'm capable," he told reporters.

"If you're a local executive, you have an opportunity to govern, even though it's just at the micro level. In human resources, finance ... you'll know what to do," Binay said. Then he enumerated the names of world leaders who started out as local government officials, like former US President Bill Clinton who was governor of Arkansas before he became president.

But Binay refused to confirm whether or not he planned to run.

"Let me just be empathic: I belong to a political party. I have to consult my constituents. I'll have to determine if I can afford a national election," he said.

But he added, "I would be a hypocrite if I say the thought of running (for president) has not crossed my mind."

Binay said the party has yet to discuss its plans for 2010. "In fact, we haven't discussed formally the pardon of (former President Joseph Estrada)," he added.

Binay, who joined Estrada on a recent trip to Tondo in Manila, said the former president's charisma remained strong, with people in the streets going to great lengths to shake his hand.

He said Estrada could still be a strong presidential candidate if he wanted, and anybody who would get his blessings would have a "good chance" of winning the elections.

New and improved service coming soon, says Philpost

By Allison W. Lopez

DON'T COUNT OUT SNAIL mail just yet.

Apart from a P6 billion modernization project to increase efficiency, the Philippine Postal Corp. (Philpost) is mounting efforts to curb mail theft and restore the public's trust in its services.

Philpost, which is celebrating its 109th anniversary, is bent on remaining relevant despite the emergence of Internet and text messaging, Postmaster General Hector Villanueva said yesterday.

"Text messaging affected us because we used to handle six million letters a day (in 1992). Now it's less than one million. Still, we're the only one with the capability to deliver mail to the remotest *barrios*," he added.

"We are trying to restore the old reputation of the post office—one of honesty, prompt service and smiling postmen. That's our immediate mission," Villanueva said.

To show its seriousness in cracking down on mail thieves, the Philpost has dismissed 129 of its employees, suspended 26 others, reprimanded 33 and penalized around 130 workers from 2004 to 2006.

Hi tech system

"We are sending a very strong message—we don't like pilferage or tampering," he said. As proof, high-tech surveillance and security systems have also been put in place at the Philpost's central mail exchange center in the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

The P6 billion computerization project, which is being implemented with the help of Japanese investors, will make the agency competitive once more in delivery service in a year's time, Villanueva added.

ESPAÑA
CORREOS
1

A MAN views one of the old stamps on display in an exhibit at the Philippine Postal Corp. building in Manila. The agency is marking its 109th anniversary this year.
REM ZAMORA

"This will bring the Post Office to the 21st century. We will more than double our revenue and will be able to trace every letter. With our Internet capability, we will be able to compete with money order transactions, both international and domestic," he said.

Exhibit

An exhibit of old stamps featuring the works of renowned artists Fernando Amorsolo, Carlos "Botong" Francisco, among others, is ongoing at the Philpost office, Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila.

Osmeña Highway bridges' rehabilitation starts today

By Margaux C. Ortiz

TWO BRIDGES ON PRES. SERgio Osmeña Highway (formerly South Super Highway) in Manila will undergo rehabilitation beginning today.

Josefino Rigor, Department of Public Works and Highways regional director, said the Estero de Paco Bridge and Estero Tripa de Gallina Bridge were in need of repairs and upgrading to improve their loading capacity.

"These bridges have been in existence for some decades now and have considerably weakened due to years of usage," Rigor said.

He added: "Considering that both bridges are only 300 meters apart, we believe it would be in the best interest of the public if the projects would be implemented simultaneously."

Rigor said both projects would be undertaken by Northern Builders with a contract duration of 90 days each.

According to the DPWH official, the northbound stretch of Osmeña Highway from San Andres to Quirino Avenue intersections would be closed to traffic during the entire construction period.

Southbound vehicles will be restricted to two lanes of the highway's four-lane southbound stretch. Northbound vehicles can use the remaining two other lanes.

DPWH officials asked the public for their cooperation and patience as they promised to speed up the repair and upgrading of the two bridges.

Panalo Ka sa PSBank Home Loan!
Give us 5 days. Or else, you get 1% less.*

PSBank
PHILIPPINE SAVINGS BANK
Metrobank Group

T.G.I.F.
Thank Goodness It's Five days.

Panalo ka sa bilis ng approval sa PSBank Home Loan! 99% of applicants nationwide receive a decision in five days or less. Panalo ka rin sa flexible or fixed terms up to 25 years! Ang iba panalo sa 1% rate break on their first year interest rate. At sa baba ng interest rates, siguradong wala kang talo dito. That's the PSBank Home Loan Guarantee!

Get the PSBank TGIF Home Loan.
Apply at any PSBank branch nationwide or through www.psbank.com.ph

*Subject to submission of all required documents.
For more inquiries, Text: PSBANK HOME AO <your name> <your landline nos.> <your email address> then send to 391-772 for Smart or 0917-8902327 for Globe and other networks • Email: info@psbank.com.ph • Call: (02) 845-8772, 944-1753, or 944-1772

PSBank
Home LOAN
Real property. Real fast.

Car theft suspects' kin hit Ombudsman for 'slow' pace of probe

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE FAMILIES OF TWO SUSpected car thieves who were killed in an alleged shootout with policemen nearly two years ago yesterday criticized Ombudsman Mercedita Gutierrez whom they accused of failing to act on the case.

The kin of Francis Xavier Manzano and Anton Cu-Unjieng also lamented that the 10 policemen involved in the incident—members of the Traffic Management Group's Task Force Limbas— are still free and that one of them was even promoted recently.

Manzano, Cu-Unjieng and another man identified as Bryan Dulay were shot dead inside a car at the Ortigas Center in Pasig City on Nov. 7, 2005. The TMG later said that the three were members of the Valle Verde Gang, a group involved in car theft. This, however, was denied by the three men's relatives.

Police said the three refused to stop at a checkpoint set up by the police and even fired at the lawmen, prompting them to return fire.

"We cannot help but question why the Ombudswoman's office, after 17 months, has not even started conducting a preliminary investigation of the case. We question why no one has been charged, relieved, suspended or prosecuted when the evidence is not just compelling but overwhelming and the lawmen's identities and whereabouts are known. But our biggest question of all is, for how long will the case remain in limbo, at the mercy of the Ombudswoman?" the Cu-Unjieng family said in a statement read by their lawyer, Jose Manuel Diokno.

It was signed by Anton's mother, Monique Lao, and grandmother Carmen.

A video clip was also shown at yesterday's press conference which was called by the Cu-Unjieng and Manzano families.

The clip from UNTV, a television network, showed armed policemen shooting at three men inside a car as they were lying motionless.

The Commission on Human Rights had conducted its own investigation of the incident. It later recommended that the 10 Task Force Limbas members be charged with multiple murder, saying the police operation against the three suspects was "feigned, premeditated and treacherous."

It also said that the police "willfully and feloniously" ensured the three men's death by using "excessive" or "lethal force" as shown by the second round of shots they fired even after the men were near death.

Abalos brother accused of poll fraud in Mandaluyong City

By Kristine L. Alave

A DEFEATED CANDIDATE FOR barangay captain yesterday urged the Commission on Elections to declare a failure of elections in Barangay Hagdang Bato Itaas, Mandaluyong City, accusing the winner of election offenses.

Luis Phillip Tolentino, who ran against Arsenio Abalos, who was declared the winner, sent a complaint to the local Comelec office, accusing the latter, an uncle of Mayor Benhur Abalos and brother of former Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos, of electoral fraud.

Tolentino said he would file a similar complaint and a petition at the Comelec main office to declare the Oct. 29 barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections in his area a failure.

The former Sangguniang Kabataan chair said his rival resorted to dirty tricks to win the elections. Tolentino claimed his watchers were driven out of the precincts and that they recorded about 100 "flying voters" in his community.

Tolentino also alleged that Abalos used public facilities such as the barangay hall for his campaign.

Abalos denied the allegations, saying he and his group were at the barangay hall because he was the incumbent.

This was not the first time Abalos figured in an electoral dispute. A director of Biyaheng Pinoy, a party-list group representing tricycle drivers, Abalos, a doctor, lost in the May 14 polls.

Tight security measures for Beyonce concert tomorrow in Taguig City

By Julie M. Aurelio

MORE THAN THAN 150 POLICEmen will be keeping a tight watch on the Fort Bonifacio Open Field during the concert of international artist Beyonce Knowles tomorrow night in Taguig City. Supt. Alfred Corpus, Taguig City police chief, ordered the deployment of 50 of his men and 100 more from the Southern Police District to the venue during the concert.

Knowles was scheduled to arrive in the country this afternoon on board a chartered flight, the Manila International Airport Authority confirmed yesterday.

The former member of the all-female group, Destiny's Child, will be flying in from Shanghai, China. Her hits as a solo artist include "Irreplaceable" and "Baby Boy."

"Considering recent events in the country, we must ensure the peaceful and successful conduct of the event. All eyes are on us as an entertainment destination," Taguig Mayor Freddie Tinga said. "At least 30,000 people are expected to attend the event, so this is a tough challenge to secure the public, the performers and the VIPs," Corpus said.

"We also have five bomb sniffing dogs sweeping the venue before and after the concert," he added.

With Tarra V. Quismundo

METROBRIEFS

8 years for arson

A MAN was sentenced to eight years in prison after a judge found him guilty of arson. Presiding Judge Severino B. de Castro of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 86 found Dan Casing guilty beyond reasonable doubt for setting on fire the door of a condominium unit in Quezon City seven years ago. Casing, however, was sentenced in absentia because he has not appeared in court since posting bail in Sept. 2001. According to the complainant, Francisco Taccad, Casing set on fire the door of his unit at the Bliss Condominium on May 4, 2000. "Setting fire to the contents of a building constituted the consummated crime of setting fire to a building, even if no part of the building was burned," the court decision read. A witness, Reynaldo Trinidad, a resident of the condominium, said he was on his way out when he saw a man he later identified as Casing pouring a liquid substance from a soft drink bottle on Taccad's door. The man then set fire to the liquid by striking a match. Casing was later apprehended by barangay officials and police officers.

Kenneth M. del Rosario

Killed in front of wife

A 19-YEAR-OLD man died after his brother-in-law stabbed him 28 times in front of the victim's wife in Pasay City yesterday morning. Police are now looking for Jawo Arce Flores, 18, the brother-in-law of the victim identified as Jonathan Felipe Marcelino. Both are residents of 304 Edang St. in Pasay City. An initial investigation revealed that the victim, who was drunk, threatened to kill his wife after she refused to let him inside their house. Flores was awakened by the commotion and tried to pacify Marcelino who punched him repeatedly. Flores then went to the kitchen, got a knife and stabbed the victim, police said.

Julie M. Aurelio

Dislocated QC residents seek extension

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

SOME 200 PERSONS TROOPED to the Quezon City Hall yesterday morning to ask government officials to give them more time to relocate before the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority continues its demolition of shanties on Commonwealth Avenue.

Edith Regimcia, 45, mother of three and a resident of Zuarigui Street, said more than 400 families would be affected by the demolition. "We're not protesting. We're merely asking for help because we have nowhere to go," she told the INQUIRER in Filipino.

According to her, the MMDA has given them only until Nov. 10 to move out of their houses. The government plans to use the land to widen Commonwealth Avenue (Mariano Marcos Avenue).

"We hope the government can give us a decent place to live in. And, hopefully, livelihood as well," she said.

Regimcia added that around 300 families have been forced to stay in tents in a basketball court when they were evicted from their houses on Litex Road. "I hope that does not happen to us again," she said.

"They still do not have a concrete plan for us. Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista said they would do something about it. But when?" asked Vince San Martin, 21, a resident of Old Balara.

GMA's best gift to the Marines: Free detained officers

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

TOMORROW, NOV. 7, IS THE 57th anniversary of the Philippine Marine Corps, the country's elite military unit.

Let us pay homage to the fighting men and women of the Corps who have sacrificed their lives and those who are willing to pay the supreme sacrifice in order that this nation—although at present run by a despised administration—may survive.

In every place where Marines are assigned, the local folks learn to love them because of their discipline and excellent relations with civilians.

These "representatives of the best in soldiery" are so loved that when a Marine unit finishes its tour of duty in a place, many local folks cry while bidding them goodbye.

When the Marine brigade of then Brig. Gen. Rodolfo Biazon was moved en masse to another place in the early 1980s, the people of Davao City, where the brigade had set up camp, howled in protest over the transfer.

* * *

The best gift that President Gloria can give the Marine Corps on its birthday is to free the Marine officers, led by Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda, who face charges of taking part in alleged acts of rebellion two years ago.

The officers, two of whom are Medal of Valor awardees, are very much loved by the Marine rank and file.

Because of their detention, there is widespread demoralization not only in the Marine Corps, but in the entire Armed Forces.

If the Commander in chief will find it in her heart to listen to the silent clamor of the troops to free the Marine officers, as well as the Army Rangers similarly charged, the high morale of the troops in the entire Armed Forces will be restored.

If the President can pardon a convicted plunderer, why can't she give the detained Marine and Army Ranger officers and enlisted men a chance to start on a clean slate?

Anyway, they haven't been convicted yet and their "sin" is not as grave as that of deposed President Erap.

* * *

The leaders of Lakas-Christian and Muslim Democrats, or Lakas, have decided to bury the hatchet to prepare for the 2010 elections.

The opposition need not worry: Lakas leaders will stab one another in the back, given the chance.

The smiles you saw in the front pages of major newspapers were put on. Try looking at the smile on President Gloria's face again in that photo: It was *pilit* or forced.

* * *

As long as GMA heads another political party that she herself founded, Kampi, she will always have divided loyalty.

What's wrong with her is that she wants to have her cake and eat it too.

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Room 507-508, 5th Floor Mabini Building,
DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines
http://www.deped.gov.ph, deped_procurementservice@yahoo.com
Direct Line: 636-65-42 / Telefax: 633-93-43 Trunk Line: 632-13-61 Local 2019

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Information and Communication and Technology Unit (ICTU) of Technical Service (TS) through the Department of Education – Bids and Awards Committee II (DepED-BAC II) invites eligible bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Supply, Delivery, Installation, and Testing of Computers as follows:

Package / Regions	Item	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Pre-bid Conference	Bid Submission Deadline/ Opening of Bids	End User
Package I Region I Region II Region III Region IV-A Region IV-B Region V Region NCR Region CAR	Supply, Installation, Delivery and Testing of Computers for various Public Secondary Schools Nationwide	P 38, 656,800.00	November 13, 2007 3:30 P.M. Venue: BEE Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Bonifacio Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City	November 27, 2007 3:30 P.M. Venue. Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. I, DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City	Technical Service – Information and Communication Technology Unit (ICTU)
Pagkage II Region VI Region VII Region VIII		P 17,098,200.00			
Package III Region IX Region X Region XI Region XII CARAGA ARMM		P18,585,000.00			
Total Approved Budget		P 74,340,000.00			

Bids received that exceed the ABC per package shall be rejected at bid opening. Bidder may bid for any or all of the packages. Late bid shall be rejected. Award shall be made on a per package basis.

The Bidding Documents shall be available at the BAC Secretariat, Procurement Service, Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, starting on **November 6, 2007** upon payment in cash of the non-refundable fee in the amount of Philippine Pesos Eight Thousand & 00/100 (Php 8,000.00) only.

Bidding shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures and pass/fail criteria in R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Information is also available at **http://www.deped.gov.ph** or **www.procurementservice.org** or call DepED-PS at Telephone No. 636-65-43 / 636-65-42 or Fax No. 633-93-43.

DepED-BAC II reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, or declare failure of bidding at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) **JESUS G. GALVAN**
Asst. Secretary and BAC II Chairperson

(PDI–Nov 6, 2007)

Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PROCUREMENT SERVICE
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE I
Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City
Telefax: 636-65-42
Direct Line: 636-65-43
Trunk Line: 632-13-61 local 2115
Website: http://www.deped.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The DepED-Bids and Awards Committee I (DepED-BAC I) invites eligible bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Printing (from camera ready materials) and Delivery of Education For All (EFA) Advocacy Materials to DepED Regional and Division Offices indicated below.

Package	Item	Description of Items/Goods	No. of Copies	End-User
A	1	Philippine EFA 2015 Plan (Bookform)	6,000	
	2	Press Kit Folder	10,000	Office of Planning Service- PDED
	3	EFA Leaflets	90,000 (10,000 pcs x 9)	
	4	EFA Brochure	10,000	
	5	Komiks (Newsprint)	10,000	

The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) is Php2,370,694.20.

Bids received that exceed the ABC for the package shall be rejected. Evaluation and award shall be for the whole package.

The Bidding Documents shall be available at the BAC I Secretariat, Procurement Service, Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, starting on **November 7, 2007** upon payment in cash of non-refundable fee of Php1,000.00 to DepED Cashier.

Bidding shall be conducted in accordance with procedures under the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Information is also available at http://www.deped.gov.ph or www.procurementservice.org or call DepED-PS at telephone no. 636-65-43 or fax no. 636-65-42.

The DepED-BAC I will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on November 13, 2007 at 10:00 A.M. The deadline for submission and opening of bids shall be on November 27, 2007 at 10:00 A.M. The pre-bid conference, receipt, and opening of bids shall be conducted at LCC Conference Room 4th Flr. Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City.

DepED-BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, or declare failure of bidding at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) **TEODOSIO C. SANGIL, JR.**
Undersecretary and BAC I Chairperson

(PDI—Nov. 6, 2007)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Room 507-508, 5th Floor Mabini Building,
DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines
http://www.deped.gov.ph, deped_procurementservice@yahoo.com
Direct Line: 636-65-43 / Telefax: 633-93-42 Trunk Line: 632-13-61 Locals 2085/2115

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Information and Communication and Technology Unit (ICTU) of Technical Service (TS) through the Department of Education – Bids and Awards Committee II (DepED-BAC II) invites eligible bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for as follows:

Item Description	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Date/Time		End-user
		Pre-bid Conference	Submission Deadline/ Opening of Bids	
Supply of Services for Comprehensive Maintenance and Support Services for the IT Infrastructure of DepED Central Office	Php 14,400,000.00	November 13, 2007 1:30 P.M. Venue: BEE Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Bonifacio Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City	November 27, 2007 1:30 P.M. Venue: Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Grd. Flr., Rizal Bldg. I, DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City	Technical Service – ICTU

Bids received that exceed the ABC shall be rejected at bid opening. Late bid shall be rejected.

The Bidding Documents shall be available at the BAC Secretariat, Procurement Service, Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, starting on **November 6, 2007** upon payment in cash of the non-refundable fee in the amount of Philippine Pesos FiveThousand & 00/100 (Php 5,000.00) only.

Bidding shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures and pass/fail criteria in R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Information is also available at **http://www.deped.gov.ph** or **www.procurementservice.org** or call DepED-PS at Telephone No. 636-65-43 / 636-65-42 or Fax No. 633-93-43.

DepED-BAC II reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, or declare failure of bidding at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) **JESUS G. GALVAN**
Asst. Secretary and BAC II Chairperson

(PDI–Nov 6, 2007)

ILOCOS NORTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Suyo, Dingras, Ilocos Norte 2913
TIN 000-716-369 V
Tel. No. (077) 784-7126/784-0082 Local 818 Fax No. 784-7125

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. (INEC) invites all interested computer suppliers to participate in a public bidding for the supply and delivery of computer servers and line printers.

A. Computer Server Specifications

Quantity - 1 set
Brand and Model: Hewlett Packard ML370 G5
Processor type : Intel® Xeon® 5060 Quad-Core Processor 1.86 GHz 1066 MHz Front Side Bus
Number of processors : 2 Processors
Standard memory : memory card; 4GB 2 x 2GB 2-5300 Fully Buffered DIMMs DDR2-667 SDRAM running at 533MHz, with Advanced ECC, Online Spare and Mirroring
Memory slots : 8 slots per memory card
Internal Hard disk drive 5 Pcs - HP 72 GB 3 GB/s 15K rpm SAS SFF SP Hard Disk Drive
Hard disk Hard disk controller : Smart Array P400 Controller with 256MB cache (RAID 0/1/5)
Internal drive bays : 16, requires second drive cage and controller
Operating Systems : Microsoft Windows® Server 2003 25 CAL

Quantity - 4 sets
Brand and Model: Hewlett Packard ML370 G5
Processor type : Intel® Xeon® 5060 Quad-Core Processor 1.86 GHz 1066 MHz Front Side Bus
Number of processors : 1 Processor
Standard memory : memory card; 4GB 2 x 2GB 2-5300 Fully Buffered DIMMs DDR2-667 SDRAM running at 533MHz, with Advanced ECC, Online Spare and Mirroring
Memory slots : 8 slots per memory card
Internal Hard disk drive 3 Pcs - HP 72 GB 3 GB/s 15K rpm SAS SFF SP Hard Disk Drive
Hard disk Hard disk controller : Smart Array P400 Controller with 256MB cache (RAID 0/1/5)
Internal drive bays : 16, requires second drive cage and controller
Operating Systems : Microsoft Windows® Server 2003 10 CAL

B. Line Printer Specifications

Quantity - 4 sets
Line Printer
Specs : 500 Lines per minute

Interested bidders shall include After Sales Support in their bid.

Bid documents may be obtained at the BAC Secretariat during office hours from November 8 to 15, 2007 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P5,000.00.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid bond in the form of cash or manager's check in the amount equivalent to 2.5% of the total bid price.

The INEC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason to waive any minor defects or infirmities therein or to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous and responsive to the INEC.

(Sgd.) **RODRIGO R. AGLIAM**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Nov. 5 & 6, 2007)

Scientists map gene flaws linked to lung cancer

PARIS—SCIENTISTS HAVE mapped the genetic aberrations underlying lung cancer and discovered a gene that plays a critical role in spreading the deadly disease, according to a study published Sunday.

The massive DNA study, involving dozens of research centers worldwide, sheds important light on the biological basis of lung cancer and will help shape new strategies for treatment, the authors said.

"This view of the lung cancer genome is unprecedented, both in its breadth and depth," said Mathew Meyerson of Harvard and MIT, who led the research.

"It lays an essential foundation, and has already pinpointed an important gene that controls the growth of lung cells." Each year some 1.3 million people die from lung cancer, making it the most lethal form of the disease, according to the World Health Organization.

The new study focuses on lung adenocarcinoma, which accounts for just under a third of all lung cancer cases.

Part of the international Tumour Sequencing Project, the study looked for abnormalities in the DNA of more than 500 tumors from lung cancer patients.

Most human cancers stem mainly from DNA changes that accumulate in cells through a person's life, but the nature of these changes—and their consequences—has remained largely unknown.

The scientists used cutting-edge technologies to scan the human genome for markers called single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) that highlight missing or duplicate sections of genetic code.

The study, published online by the British journal Nature, uncovered a total of 57 genomic changes that occur frequently in cancer patients.

Of these, at least 40 are associated with genes not previously known to be involved in lung adenocarcinoma.

The genetic anomaly that turned up the most frequently incriminates a gene called NKX2.1 as an accelerator of cancer cell growth.

NKX2.1 normally acts as a "master regulator" that controls the activity of other genes in cells lining tiny air sacs in lungs called alveoli.

The discovery that a gene functioning in a particular group of cells can promote cancer growth could help scientists design drugs to fight not just lung cancer but a wide range of cancers, the researchers said.

The use of powerful tools and technologies to sequence the genomes of lung cancer patients "represents a general approach that can and should be used to analyze all types of cancer," said coauthor Eric Lander. *AFP*

FLAG DAY IN PANAMA

A girl dressed as a sailor marches in the annual Flag Day parade in Panama City on Nov. 4. AP

China, US agree on military hotline

BEIJING—CHINA AND THE United States agreed on Monday to open a military hotline as US Defense Secretary Robert Gates held talks in Beijing aimed at strengthening ties overshadowed by years of mistrust.

Chinese Defense Minister Cao Gangchuan said the two countries had directed technical experts to press ahead with consultations, but neither gave a timeline for when the link might be opened.

Both Gates and Cao stressed a desire to build a closer relationship between their militaries, but mutual wariness remains.

Gates said last week he did not currently see China as a threat to the United States. But Beijing is engaged in a rapid military buildup and Washington says it has yet to adequately explain the reasons behind it.

"The United States has a relationship with China that is candid, constructive and cooperative," Gates said On Monday.

"We reached agreement on implementation of a direct telephone link between our two defense establishments," he told reporters following a meeting with Cao.

Washington has long been interested in establishing a defense hotline with China and Beijing has previously signaled its approval. But the project has not been realized.

US officials had expected China to embrace the idea again during Gates' visit. But they said the talks on finalizing the arrangements would be the true test of whether Beijing really had the political will to establish such a direct link.

China's official Xinhua news agency said the link would be the first of its kind between Beijing and another country at defense ministry level.

Military relations between China and the United States hit a low point in 2001, when they broke off contacts following a collision between a Chinese fighter jet and a US spy plane.

While ties have improved markedly since then, Washington says Beijing is concealing its true defense budget and fears China's military build-up is aimed at projecting its growing power.

Washington was especially alarmed when Beijing successfully shot down one of its own satellites with a ground-based missile in a test in January. The United States has said it has yet to receive a satisfactory explanation for the test.

Asked if he had received such an explanation at Monday's talks with Cao, Gates replied tersely: "I raised our concerns about it and there was no further discussion." *Reuters*

Israel, with US support, says peace possible by 2009

JERUSALEM—ISRAELI PRIME Minister Ehud Olmert said he may be able to make peace with the Palestinians by the end of 2008 as the United States vowed to defend Israel's security during the difficult process.

"If we act decisively together—we and the Palestinians—there is a chance for us to reach real achievements, maybe even before the end of President (George W.) Bush's term," he said at the Saban Forum think-tank in Jerusalem.

"There is no intention to drag out the negotiations without end. There is no reason to again hit the foot-dragging that characterized our talks in the past," the premier said.

Israel and the Palestinians have been engaged in intensive talks in an effort to draft a joint statement outlining a solution to the decades-old conflict ahead of a meeting in Annapolis, Maryland expected later this year.

The two sides plan to launch intensive bilateral talks on a permanent agreement following the international meeting, aimed at reviving a peace process that has been dormant for seven years. *AFP*

ONLINE
www.goindustry.com
Online Auction
MACHINE TOOLS W/ ACCESSORIES
Sale Closing: Thursday, 15th November 2007 at 18:00 CCT (Local Time)
Located: Ground Floor, TPA building 7489 Bagtikan Street, San Antonio Village, Makati City, Philippines
CHARMILLES ROBOFIL 290P/CNC Wire Cut EDM (2000); ARD M30E Precision EDM (2000); ACRA ASG-618HS Surface Grinder (2000); (2) PHOEBUS PBM-25 Turret Mills (2000)
Viewing: Strictly by Appointment
For more details please visit our website at www.goindustry.com
GoIndustry Henry Butcher
INDUSTRIAL ASSET DISPOSAL AND VALUATION
Contact: Dadas Serna
Tel: +63 2 822 5555 Loc. 116
dadas.serna@goindustry.com

French PM brings 7 freed Europeans home

PARIS—FRENCH PRESIDENT NICOlas Sarkozy brought home seven Europeans on Sunday who had been jailed in Chad over a charity's attempt to fly some 100 children to France.

The three French journalists and four Spanish air hostesses, among 17 Europeans accused of attempted kidnapping in the case, had earlier been freed by a Chadian judge.

The foreigners were jailed along with four Chadians after the French charity Zoe's Ark was stopped from flying 103 children on Oct. 25 from eastern Chad to France where they were to be placed in the care of host families.

Sarkozy flew to Chad and held talks with his Chadian counterpart Idriss Deby Itno before bringing the seven home, stopping first at a military airport near Madrid to drop off the Spanish air hostesses.

Shortly before midnight, Sarkozy touched down outside Paris with Marc Garmirian of the Capa television news agency, Jean-Daniel Guillou of the Synchro X photo agency and Marie-Agnes Peleran from France 3 television.

The three journalists did not make a statement at their arrival at Villacoublay military airport but Garmirian thanked the press for its support.

"It has helped me a lot," he said. "I'm not going to break down now."

"We thank you all. If we made it, it is certainly also because of you," he added.

The Chadian president had accused Zoe's Ark of trying to "sell" the children to "paedophile NGOs" and attempting to "kill them for their organs." *AFP*

UN envoy meets Burma officials

RANGOON—UN SPECIAL ENVOY Ibrahim Gambari met two senior Burma (Myanmar) junta officials Sunday on his second mission to the impoverished nation since the military regime's bloody suppression of mass prodemocracy protests.

The troubleshooter held meetings with Labor Minister Aung Kyi, whom the junta has appointed to liaise with detained democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, and Foreign Minister Nyan Win, the United Nations said in a statement.

Gambari is on the second day of a visit to press for political reform and talks with the opposition following September's crackdown, in which at least 13 protesters were killed and thousands more locked up.

The UN envoy and Aung Kyi discussed the minister's first talks with Aung San Suu Kyi, which were held 10 days ago, the statement said.

"The Special Advisor expects that these initial steps will lead to early initiation of dialogue aimed at accelerating inclusive national reconciliation, the restoration of democracy and the full respect for human rights," it said.

It was not yet clear if Gambari will meet with regime chief Than Shwe, but he is due to meet Tuesday with Aung San Suu Kyi, who is under house arrest in Rangoon (Yangon), and members of her National League for Democracy (NLD). *AFP*

Section I. INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The City Government of Tagum, through its **Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)**, invites consultants to apply for eligibility and shortlisting and if found eligible and shortlisted, to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : Construction of New Tagum City Hall Building
Brief Description : DESIGN: Support Services During Construction and CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISION
Approved Budget For the Contract : Twenty Million Pesos (P20,000,000.00)
Source of Funding : LBP-Loan
Contract Duration : Eighteen (18) months

The list of minimum requirements is indicated in the Eligibility Form. Eligibility of prospective bidders shall be checked using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Shortlisting of eligible consultants will be done based on the following criteria: experience of the consultant, qualification of personnel and current workload. Only five (5) eligible bidders shall make up the shortlist. The evaluation procedure to be adopted shall be QBE (Quality Based Evaluation). The minimum technical rating for the technical proposal is eighty five percent (85%).

The following shortlisting criteria are:

1. Applicable experience of the consultant (meaning the consulting firm) and associates in case of joint ventures (weight: 50%);
2. Qualification of principal and key staff of the consultant who may be assigned to the job vis-a-vis extent and complexity of the undertaking (weight: 30%); and
3. Current workload relative to capacity (weight: 20%).

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the **City Government of Tagum at BAC Secretariat Office, 2nd Floor SP Bldg., Bonifacio St., Tagum City from 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Monday - Friday.**

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conferences, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedules of activities are as follow:

Activities	Schedule
1. Submission of Letters of Intent and Application for Eligibility	November 16, 2007
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	November 23, 2007
3. Submission of Eligibility Requirements	November 16-27, 2007
4. Results of Eligibility Check	November 29, 2007
5. Results of Short Listing	December 14, 2007
6. Issuance of Bid Documents	December 15-20, 2007
7. Pre-Bid Conference	December 27, 2007

The Eligibility Screening Form will be available at ***BAC Secretariat Office, 2nd Floor SP Building, Bonifacio St., Tagum City***, upon submission of a letter of intent, and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of ***one thousand pesos (P1,000.00)*** to the ***City Government of Tagum*** Cashier. Submission and results of eligibility shall be in the same office.

Bid Documents will be available only to shortlisted bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of ***twenty five thousand pesos (P25,000.00)*** to the ***City Government of Tagum*** Cashier.

The ***City Government of Tagum*** assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Bid documents (Financial and Technical Proposals) must be delivered to the ***BAC Secretariat Office, 2nd Floor SP Building, Bonifacio St., Tagum City*** on or before ***9:00 AM (CGOT Bundy Clock) of January 8, 2008*** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of ***cash, certified checks, and manager's check*** and in the amount of ***two hundred thousand pesos (P200,000.00)*** or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late bids shall not be accepted.

BAC SECRETARIAT OFFICE
(084) 218-3639 / 218-7699 / 218-2349

Very truly yours:
(Sgd.) **Atty. Roland G. Tumanda**
BAC Chairman

(PDI--Nov. 6, 2007)

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PROVISION OF A REGULAR PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE AND COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE AIR CONDITIONING UNITS INSTALLED AT THE PAG-IBIG FUND CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS AND NCR BRANCHES FOR Y2008-2009

The Pag-IBIG Fund, through its Bids and Awards Committee-Goods & Services intends to apply the sum of Four Million Two Hundred Ninety Two Thousand Three Hundred Fourteen Pesos and 92/100 (P 4,292,314.92) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Provision of a regular preventive maintenance and comprehensive maintenance services for the air conditioning units installed at the Pag-IBIG Fund Corporate Headquarters and NCR branches for Y2008-2009. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

The Pag-IBIG Fund now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Provision of a regular preventive maintenance and comprehensive maintenance services for the air conditioning units installed at the Pag-IBIG Fund Corporate Headquarters and NCR branches. The Contract shall take effect in January 2008. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instructions to Bidders.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A.9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BAC-GS Secretariat at Pag-IBIG Fund and inspect the Bidding Documents at Room 704, 7th Floor, The Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City on November 6, 2007, from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the BAC-GS Secretariat, Room 704, 7th Floor, The Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City starting August 6, 2007 upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Four Thousand Pesos (P4,000.00) in the form of cash, certified check or cashier's check or manager's check payable to Pag-IBIG Fund. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The Pag-IBIG Fund will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on November 13, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the Taduran Hall, Room 602, 6th Floor, Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to Room 704, 7th Floor, The Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City on or before 9:00 a.m. of November 26, 2007. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and amount indicated in the Bidding Documents. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be held on November 26, 2007 at the Taduran Hall, Room 602, 6th Floor, Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City at 9:00 a.m. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

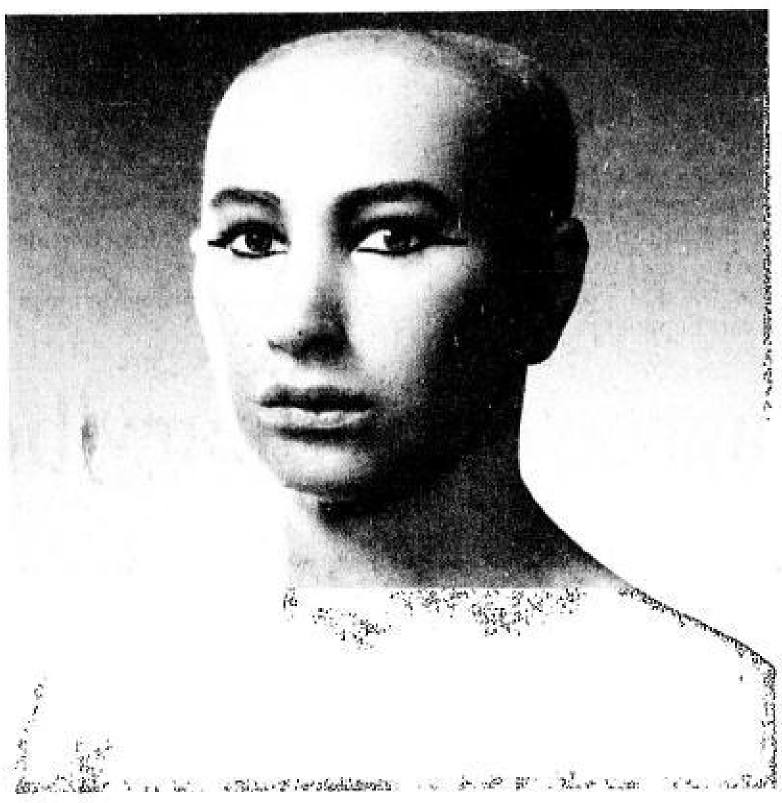
The Pag-IBIG Fund reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

For further inquiries and/or information, please call Messrs. Wilfrido Nacito S. Reyes and Jose Maria M. Diaz at 811-4262/894-5815 or visit our Corporate Website at **http://www.pagibigfund.gov.ph** or e-mail us at **gsd@pagibigfund.gov.ph.**

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
GOODS AND SERVICES
By: (Sgd.) **DELIA L. BERNARDO**
Officer-In-Charge, Technical Support
Vice President, Administration Group
Vice-Chair, BAC-GS

(PDI--November 6, 2007)

King Tut's 'beautiful' face bared



A MODEL of King Tutankhamun (above) made by a French team based on facial reconstructions from CT scans of the mummy. At right, King Tut's sarcophagus. AP

LUXOR—THE TRUE FACE OF ancient Egypt's boy king Tutankhamun was revealed on Sunday to the public for the first time since he died in mysterious circumstances more than 3,000 years ago.

The pharaoh's mummy was moved from its ornate sarcophagus in the tomb where its 1922 discovery caused an international sensation to a nearby climate-controlled case where experts say it will be better preserved.

"The face of the golden pharaoh is amazing," said Egyptian antiquities supremo Zahi Hawass, pulling back the linen bandages to reveal a body resembling a badly burnt skeleton.

"It has magic, it has mystery, it has beauty and his buck teeth are similar to the rest of his family's. Putting the mummy in this case will make the golden king live forever."

Made pharaoh at the age of 9, Tutankhamun became famous with the discovery of his tomb and the treasures within by Briton Howard Carter.

His iconic solid gold burial mask weighs 11 kg, encrusted with lapis lazuli and other semiprecious stones.

The mummy had to be reconstructed after Carter cut it into 18 pieces in order to gain access to amulets and other jewellery, said Mustafa Wazery, director of the Valley of the Kings.

A silicone representation of the face of the legendary pharaoh, who died around 3,300 years ago at the age of just 19, was reconstructed in 2005 using images collected through CAT scans of his mummy.

Egyptian, Swiss and Italian experts have deduced that Tutankhamun died after an injury to his left leg led to rapid gangrene, rejecting a previously popular theory that the king had been killed by a blow to the neck.

When the tomb was discovered, the pharaoh's embalmed body was encased in three sarcophagi, one of which was made from solid gold.

Tutankhamun, the 12th pharaoh of the 18th dynasty, reigned for 10 years. Theories that he was assassinated stemmed from the fact that he was the last ruler of his dynasty.

The pharaoh Akhenaton the Heretic was thought to have fathered Tutankhamun, but the identity of his mother is not known for sure. It may have been Nefertiti, a foreign princess, or his wet nurse Maya. *AFP*

PAKISTAN EMERGENCY RULE

Lawyers beaten up; crackdown continues

LAWYERS chant slogans against emergency rule in Peshawar Nov. 5.

REUTERS

ISLAMABAD—PAKISTAN police baton-charged lawyers protesting against President Pervez Musharraf's emergency rule and continued to detain his opponents on Monday, despite sharp criticism from ally Washington of the clampdown.

Declaring an emergency on Saturday, General Musharraf cited spiraling militancy and hostile judges to justify his action and imposed reporting curbs on the media in a bid to stop outrage spilling onto the streets.

Police baton-charged and scuffled with dozens of lawyers protesting outside the High Court in the economic capital, Karachi, lawyers said. One officer said up to 30 lawyers had initially been detained. Several others were detained later.

"We are not scared of these arrests. We will continue our fight, come what may," Abdul Hafeez, a Karachi lawyer, told Reuters as police shoved him into a car.

The Karachi Bar Association says its president, Iftikhar Javed Qazi, was among those arrested.

The arrests came after a main Islamist opposition party, Jamaat-e-Islami, said authorities detained 600-700 of its supporters in southern and central provinces overnight.

Authorities had already arrested 400-500 political opponents and opposition lawyers as a "preventive" measure.

Pakistan shares fell around 2.6 percent in early Monday trading, compounding losses incurred last week as talk of impending emergency rule swirled.

Musharraf, who seized power in a coup in 1999, has also suspended the constitution.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice voiced disappointment with Musharraf in terms seldom heard before from US officials more accustomed to praising the Pakistani leader's support in the battle against al Qaida.

"The United States has never put all of its chips on Musharraf," Rice said, urging Pakistan to rejoin the road to democracy and warning that US aid to its ally was under review.

Washington has given Islamabad around $10 billion over the last five years.

Despite the detentions, a lawyers' movement that led the fight against Musharraf when he tried to sack the country's top judge earlier this year, was planning protests in front of courts in most major cities.

Lawyers, journalists, opposition politicians, and ordinary Pakistanis said they believed Musharraf's main motive in declaring emergency rule was to preempt the Supreme Court invalidating his reelection as president last month. *Reuters*

NEW SUZUKI
ALTO
let's go
The global compact car.
ALTO

A ffordable
L ight on gas
T echnology from Japan
O utstanding value for money

*Now with easy-to-own payment schemes!**

Minimum of 15% down payment

Up to **72 months** payment terms

Lowest monthly amortization on **50% down payment**
₱4, 293 (De Luxe) ₱3, 872 (Standard)

** For details please visit your nearest Suzuki dealer now!*

SUZUKI
Way of Life!

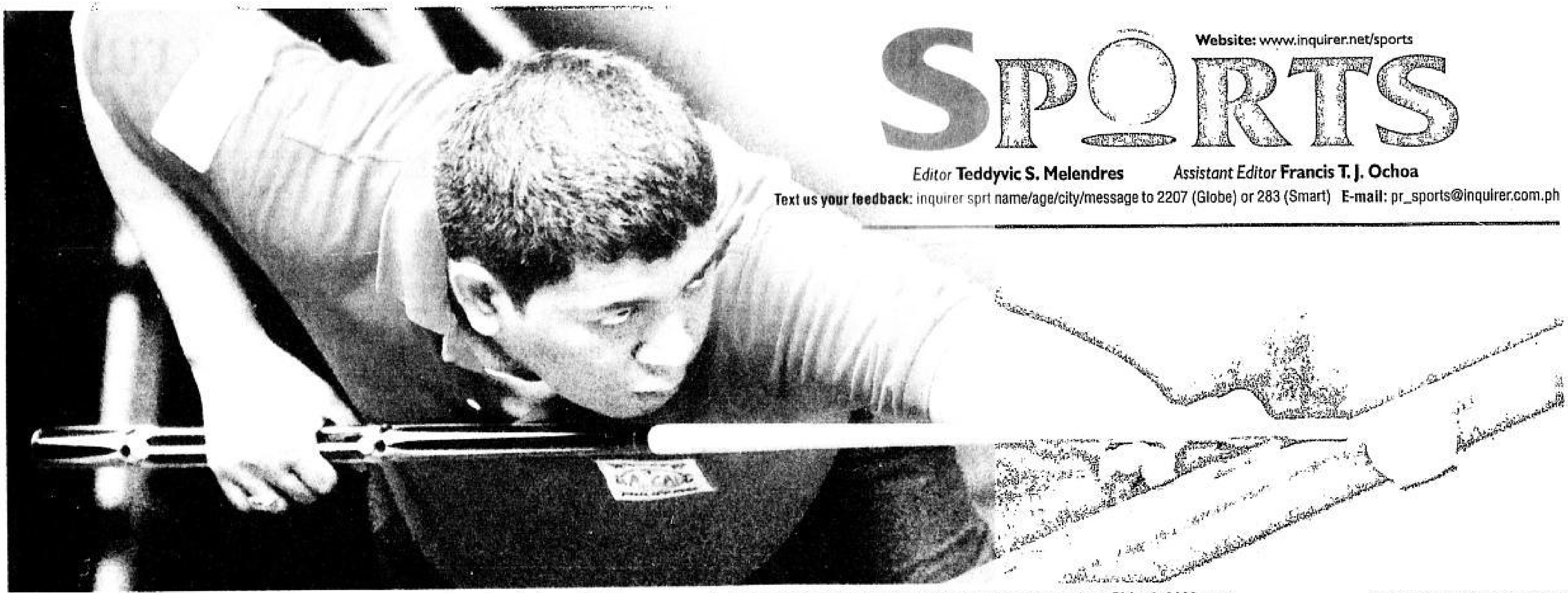
Price* starts at only ₱359,000
*FOB Manila

3 YEARS WARRANTY 100,000

METRO MANILA: SUZUKI AUTO COMMONWEALTH Prince Motor Corporation 951-2201 to 10 / 453-9316 to 20 • **SUZUKI AUTO EDSA** Pilhino Sales Corporation 634-3451 to 57 / 634-0031 / 634-0032 / 634-0034 • **SUZUKI AUTO KALOOKAN** Matrix Motor Corporation 364-9093 / 365-6098 /365-3011 / 365-7796 • **SUZUKI AUTO MANILA BAY** Wheels Inc. 556-1485 / 556-1487 • **SUZUKI AUTO MAKATI** Heidelberg Motor Corporation 616-4097 / 610-1736 / 610-1737 **SUZUKI AUTO QUEZON AVE.** Sunny Motors Group, Inc. 374-3911 / 411-2720 • **SUZUKI AUTO SHAW** The Shaw Motor Plaza Corporation 718-1834 to 35

PROVINCIAL: SUZUKI AUTO BACOLOD Automall Motor Sales (034) 435-0268 • **SUZUKI AUTO CABANATUAN** Prince Motor Corporation (044) 463-5248 / 463-0089 • **SUZUKI AUTO CEBU** Cebu Autocentrale Corporation (032) 345-8893 / 346-0024 • **SUZUKI AUTO DAGUPAN** Amianan Motors (075) 517-1717 / 8888 / 9999 • **SUZUKI AUTO DAVAO** Motormall Davao Corporation (082) 233-1140 / 234-0380 / 234-0648 • **SUZUKI AUTO ILOILO** Iloilo Car Corporation (033) 320-7020 • **SUZUKI AUTO LAGUNA** Areza Motor Sales (02) 520-6725 / (049) 411-1079 / 411-1060 **SUZUKI AUTO LEGASPI** Lisam Motors (054) 472-3577 / (02) 250-8034 • **SUZUKI AUTO PAMPANGA** Family Cars, Inc. (045) 860-5971/ 961-3573/961-7746 • **SUZUKI AUTO ZAMBOANGA** Arcel Marketing, Inc. (062) 991-1492/993-1213

Please visit Suzuki Website: www.suzuki.com.ph



Website: www.inquirer.net/sports
SPORTS
Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa
Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

MARLON Manalo lines his shot against Serbia's Dejan Dabovic, whom he beat, 9-7, in a group match. The come-from-behind win set up Manalo against China's Li Hewen.

INQUIRER PHOTO / AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Andam scrapes through Last 64

Manalo, De Luna also advance

By Musong R. Castillo

LEONARDO Andam prepares for a tricky shot against Germany's Ralf Soquet, last year's WPC runner-up, in yesterday's well-applauded group match at the Araneta Coliseum. The Filipino won, 9-5, and proceeded to barge into the knockout stage.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

AND THEN CAME THE UNEXpected.

Leonardo Andam, ailing, ill-prepared and possibly the longest shot among the Filipinos in the $400,000 World Pool Championship, hammered out two victories over formidable foreign foes at the Araneta Coliseum last night to make the Last 64.

The 48-year-old, seven-time Southeast Asian Games gold medalist first gunned down German Ralf Souquet, 9-5, before scoring a 9-8 squeaker over Englishman Raj Hundal to join his more illustrious countrymen in the knockout stage.

With just one month to prepare for this event—and with hemorrhoids and all— there were very few who expected Andam to last long against the world's best.

But he churned out a performance to remember, especially against Hundal, who got to the hill first but allowed the Filipino back in the match after breaking dry in the 15th rack and eventually seeing an 8-6 lead go kaput.

"I was so nervous," Andam, who avenged a 4-8 loss to last year to the eventual WPC runner-up Soquet, said in Filipino. "I had very little time to prepare because of my illness."

Andam's game was so awry before last night that he got disqualified in his last tournament, the Pacman International, after failing to wake up in time for his group match.

Andam actually let a 6-3 lead against Hundal slip away, going dry in two of his next three breaks before getting something to go his way in the 15th frame. He then made the shot of the match, a two-rail kick shot to pocket the blue 2 in the 17th rack and gain the edge. He eventually cleaned up the table.

There was no stopping the RP juggernaut as Marlon Manalo and Jeff de Luna made it 3-for-3 for the day for the hosts.

The 31-year-old Manalo rallied to slip past Serbia's Dejan Dabovic, 9-7, before nipping China's Li Hewen, 9-7, in the evening.

De Luna, the 23-year-old who won the Pacman event, shoved Taiwan's Fu Che-wei on the brink with a clinical 9-3 win, to join 10 other Filipinos, at presstime, in the KO stage.

The last three among the 15 Filipinos—Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat, Robert Gomez and Dennis Orcollo—get to see action today along with the consensus favorite, US Open champ Shane Van Boening of the United States.

Luat clashes with Singapore's Toh Lian Han, while Gomez, a qualifier, opens up against veteran Kiwi Niels Feijien in Group 16 action.

Orcollo, whom defending champion Ronnie Alcano said could be the brightest local bet, takes on Hong Kong's Kenny Kwok in Group 13.

Boening, who is also in Manalo's group, trades shots with Taiwanese Chang Yau-mau on television table 2 at 3:30 p.m.

Alcano led a perfect opening day for the Philippines, which put all of its first four players into the Last 64.

Efren "Bata" Reyes scraped through his last two matches after dropping the first; Joven Bustamante was the first unheralded local to march on; while Antonio Gabica had to play late in the night to make it.

Only Antonio Lining failed to make it.

RP Cuppers Arcilla, Tierro stamp class on PCA rivals

DEFENDING CHAMPION JOHNNY ARcilla stamped his class on Raffy Santiago, 6-2, 6-0, Monday to reach the round-of-16 in the 26th Philippine Columbian Association Open Tennis Championships at the Club's indoor court.

The victory sent the 27-year-old mainstay of the RP Davis Cup team up against former national player Pop Sabandon, who scored a 6-1, 7-5 victory over Gerard Abacan.

"I'll just try to stay focused, play my best and not be overconfident," said Arcilla, who holds a 7-2 record against Sabandon.

Sabandon's best finish in this P400,000 tournament offering P100,000 to the champion was reaching the semifinals in 2003.

"This is my first tournament after three years and I feel rusty," said the 26-year-old Sabandon, who retired from competitive tennis to finish his studies. "Hopefully, I can pull off a miracle against Arcilla."

Top-seeded Patrick John Tierro, meanwhile, survived Irwin de Guzman, 7-6 (4), 5-7, 6-0, to arrange a third-round meeting with the winner between Raymond Villarete and McClean Barraquias.

"He (De Guzman) is playing beautifully these days," said Tierro, a college freshman taking up sports management. "I was a bit impatient."

"Hopefully, I'll play better next time," added Tierro, who together with Arcilla and Fil-Americans Cecil Mamiit and Eric Taino will see action in the Southeast Asian Games in Thailand next month.

Other winners were fourth seed Yannick Guba, sixth seed Elbert Anasta, eighth seed Ralph Kevin Barte, 13th seed Joseph Arcilla and 14th seed Ronald Joven.

Guba won over Antonio Sagansay, 6-2, 6-3; Anasta trounced Michael Misa, 6-1, 6-3; Barte beat Jandrick de Castro, 6-2, 6-0; Arcilla clobbered Roland Kraut, 6-3, 6-1; and Joven bested Karl Santamaria 6-2, 6-1.

xFM welcomes new PBL season

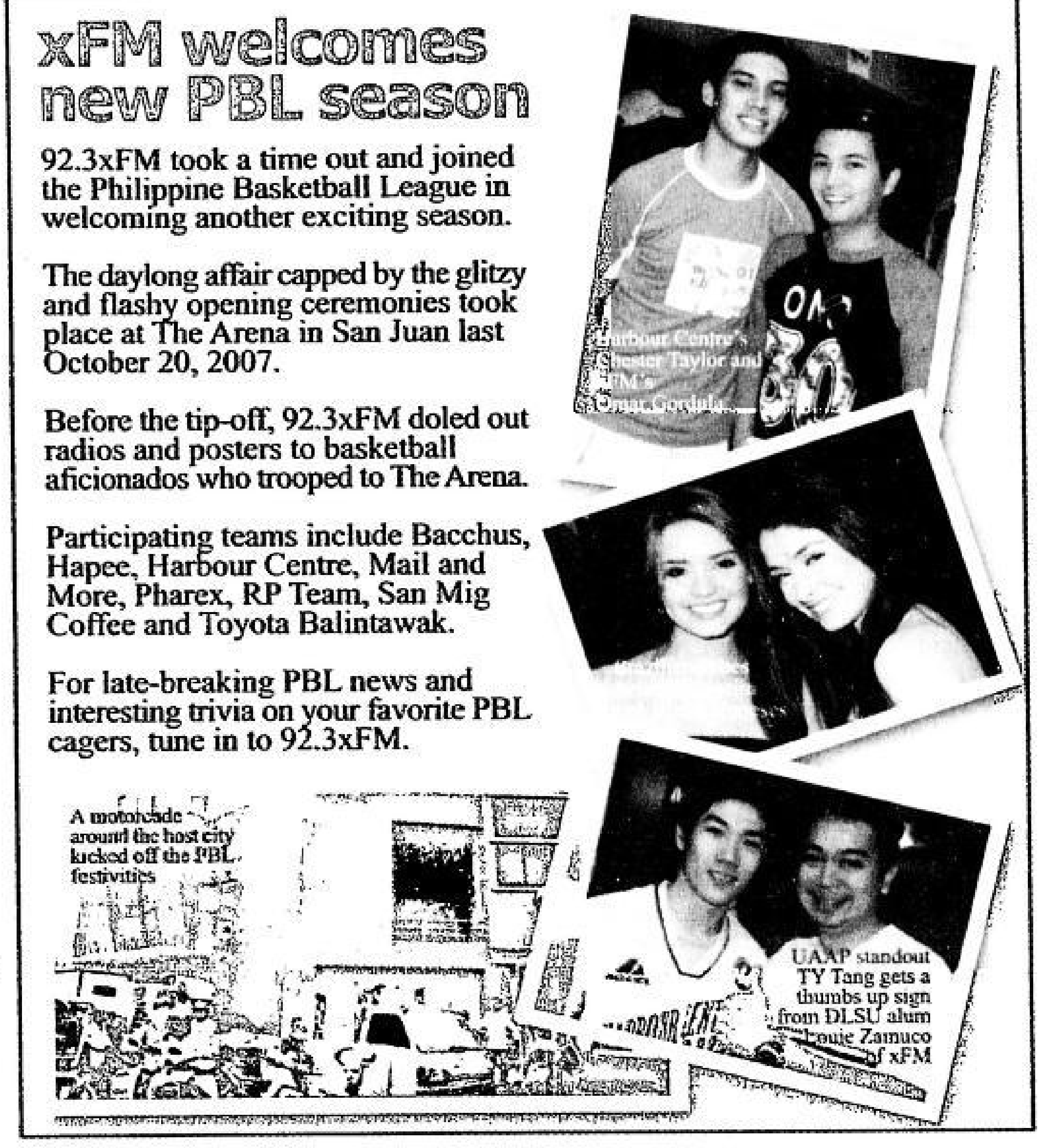
92.3xFM took a time out and joined the Philippine Basketball League in welcoming another exciting season.

The daylong affair capped by the glitzy and flashy opening ceremonies took place at The Arena in San Juan last October 20, 2007.

Before the tip-off, 92.3xFM doled out radios and posters to basketball aficionados who trooped to The Arena.

Participating teams include Bacchus, Hapee, Harbour Centre, Mail and More, Pharex, RP Team, San Mig Coffee and Toyota Balintawak.

For late-breaking PBL news and interesting trivia on your favorite PBL cagers, tune in to 92.3xFM.



Harbour Centre's Chester Taylor and xFM's Omar Gordula

A motorcade around the host city kicked off the PBL festivities

UAAP standout TY Tang gets a thumbs up sign from DLSU alum Louie Zamuco of xFM

VISAYAS
MINDANAO
KAHIT SAAN, NUMBER ONE.
Bandera
PANG-PINOY • PAMPAMILYA
Bandera
TUBIG RASYON SA METRO, CL
Bagong diskarte! Bagong TM Diskarte SIM!
P30 LANG

CONE: It has become like a UFC fight.

Cone hits out at PBA officiating, new rules

By June Navarro

IT'S GETTING TO BE A HABIT. EVERY winning coach gives a piece of his mind on officiating at the end of the game in the ongoing Smart-PBA Philippine Cup.

But most of the time, the post-game reviews aren't encouraging.

Alaska coach Tim Cone again took a swipe at league officiating Sunday night, following the lead of his colleagues who also frowned on the set of new rules borrowed from the International Basketball Federation or Fiba.

"Normally, basketball is like a chess match," said the outspoken Cone after the Aces routed the Welcoat Dragons, 73-60, in another highly physical match.

"Now, the game is like the UFC (Ultimate Fighting Championships). Whichever team comes out bloodied at the end of the game might win it.

"Letting go of rugged physical contact now has become a normal occurrence as the referees allow these plays to prosper during the course of the game.

"I'm not saying the league is wrong or right in making these adjustments. But it's hard to run the offense. We can't isolate at the post because there's so much banging, pushing and shoving inside the lane."

Although the Aces won three in a row for a 3-2 record, Cone branded these victories as ugly. It was quite evident during the Purefoods-Barangay Ginebra encounter, which produced five technical fouls, an ejection and a fistfight between Brandon Cablay and Ronald Tubid.

Mark Macapagal was thrown out for excessive complaining. The 6-foot-1 Ginebra sniper was hacked during a fast-break play, sending him crashing to the floor. No foul was called.

"I'm still confused with the officiating," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao. "People are driving to the basket getting bumped, hacked and the referees will still not call a foul."

"We should re-evaluate the rules. I'm talking to the coaches and they don't know what a foul is and what is not."

Gabe, 4 others eyed to boost tired RP quint

By Jasmine W. Payo

A TROUBLED NATIONAL SQUAD BATTING for the inclusion of at least five new players hopes to regain its bearings in the PBL V-Go Extreme Energy Drink Cup today.

The Harbour-Philippine Team goes up against newcomer Pharex at 2 p.m., just a day after team officials listed 24 candidates in the revamped national squad.

PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad named Hapee's Fil-Am star Gabe Norwood, University of the East and Pharex mainstay Elmer Espiritu, San Beda's Ogie Menor, former Letran stalwart Erick Rodriguez and Harbour Centre point guard Al Vergara in the priority list.

"We want to have a tight competition (within the team) because some are getting complacent," said coach Junel Baculi of the Nationals, who are vying in next month's Southeast Asian Games in Thailand.

"We want to put some competition so they will always be on their guard. They have to perform well to make it to the final lineup."

Trinidad added: "It's not a total revamp. We want players who can bring soul to the team. In terms of talent, there's no problem. It's the attitude, some have no sense of urgency."

Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas president Manny V. Pangilinan, SEAG project director Mikee Romero and other key officials will tackle the RP team's plight in a meeting tonight at the PLDT office.

Only Jason Castro, Beau Belga, ex-pro Alex Crisano and Chad Alonzo have played impressively for the Nationals, whose PBL record fell to 3-2 after shameful losses to Hapee and Harbour Centre.

"We're getting players who can also adjust quickly; I think one month will be enough," said Baculi. "In our meeting (last Sunday), we analyzed per position—which one is adequate or inadequate. But the nucleus of our team will still be there."

Air21 Express earlier offered the services of its four key players, but the move is subject to the approval of the PBA board.

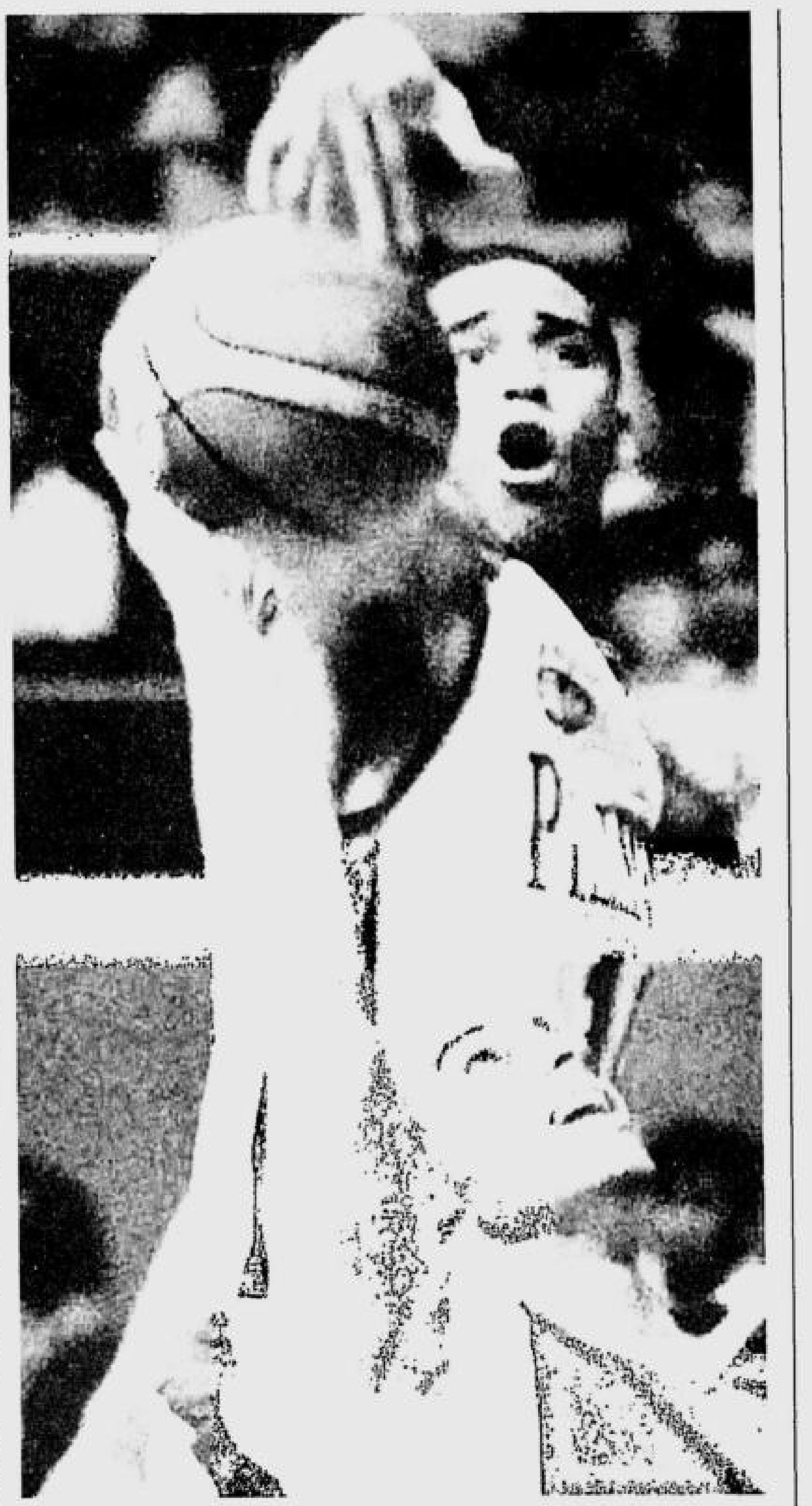
"That will take time, but we appreciate their goodwill," said Baculi. "We're putting no pressure on the PBA."

The Harbour-RP Team will play two more PBL games before leaving for a series of tune-up games in Singapore on Nov. 10.

Following the Harbour-RP Team and Pharex tussle, San Mig Coffee will try to recover from its first setback against winless Mail and More at 4 p.m. today at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

STANDINGS	W	L
Hapee	3	0
Harbour	3	0
RP Team	3	2
Toyota Bal.	2	1
SMig Coffee	1	1
Mall & More	0	2
Pharex	0	3
Bacchus	0	3

GAMES TODAY
(Ninoy Aquino Stadium)
2 p.m.—Pharex vs Harbour-RP Team
4 p.m.—San Mig Coffee vs Mall and More



FIL-AM standout Gabe Norwood's services needed again.

World Cup: Paulo through, Liza crashes out

ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA—COMEBACKING Paulo Valdez of the Philippines rolled 1281 pinfalls in six games to advance to the next round, but fellow national champion Liza del Rosario crashed out at the start of the 43rd QubicaAMF Bowling World Cup at the Kontinent Bowling Centre here.

Valdez capped his World Cup debut with a 277 in the final game to land 17th, but Del Rosario, a one-time runner-up in the world's most prestigious and toughest individual kegfest, managed only 1119 and wound up in 38th spot.

Only the top 24 men and 24 women after the opening six-game block advanced to the next round.

Del Rosario's woeful start was partly due to her failure to get her bowling balls, which were misdirected on her and Valdez's flight from Manila. By the time the balls arrived, the Filipinos had already completed their first-day games.

VALDEZ: In 17th spot

DEL ROSARIO: 38th

Former Asian champion Valdez, who returned to bowling after a two-year layoff, started with a 185-game and followed this with 216, 182, 240 and 181 before winding up with that 277.

Del Rosario's game crumbled after opening with a 208 as she rolled 170, 191, 167, 191, and 192 pins to round out her performance.

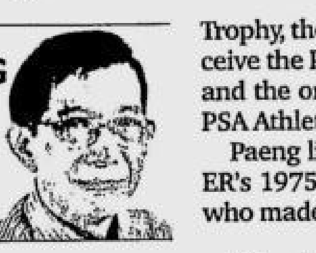
South Korea's Lee Sun-hee and Australia's Jason Belmonte showed the way with sizzling scores of 1386 and 1452, respectively.

Dominican Republic's Aumi Guerra checked in second with 1376, followed by Malta's Sue Ablea (1342) and Sweden's Helen Johnsson (1336).

Bill Hoffman, the American who is one of the pre-event favorites, trailed Belmonte in second spot with 1433, followed by Venezuela's Ildemaro Ruiz (1393), Portugal's Paulo Lopes (1385), Russia's Alexey Parshukov (1378), Colombia's Andres Gomez (1365), United Arab Emirates' Mohammed Khalifa Al-Qubaisi (1349), Singapore's Remy Ong (1333), Israel's Yahav Rabin (1316), and Scotland's Mark McQueen (1315).

Paying tribute to Paeng

CLEAN LIVING



Manolo R. Iñigo

FOUR-TIME BOWLING WORLD CUP champion Rafael "Paeng" Nepomuceno will demonstrate his tenpin bowling savvy during a bowling tournament of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP)-Bulacan chapter and Bulacan Court Employees Association (Bulcea) at 3 p.m. on Nov. 16 at the Paradise Resort in Malolos City.

"We are deeply honored to Mr. Paeng Nepomuceno for accepting our invitation," said former IBP Bulacan chapter president lawyer Pete Principe. "For truly, Paeng serves as an inspiration to the whole nation being a role model to everybody, particularly to the youth, because of his exemplary conduct and strong personal discipline."

Only recently, Nepomuceno was honored in Congress when Pampanga Rep. Anna York Bondoc introduced House Resolution No. 280 citing Paeng's recent victory in the South Pacific Classic held in Melbourne, Australia, where he beat over 150 international bowlers. It was his 118th career win worldwide, a record.

* * *

It was in the Bowling World Cup, however, where the 50-year-old Paeng achieved his crowning glory.

At 6-foot-2, the handsome and deeply religious southpaw won an unprecedented four World Cup titles (1976, Teheran; 1980, Jakarta; 1992, Le Mans, France; and 1996, Castlereagh, Northern, Ireland) to earn a spot in the Guinness Book of World Records.

In 1976, he was the youngest player to win the cup at 19. He was also the first player to be inducted into the International Bowling Hall of Fame in Missouri, aside from being named "Bowler of the Millennium" by FIQ, the governing body for the sport.

Married to Saira "Pinky" Puyat, daughter of former Assemblyman Jose "Popit" Puyat, Paeng was also the first Filipino athlete to be awarded with the IOC (International Olympic Committee) President's Trophy, the first Filipino athlete to receive the Philippine Legion of Honor and the only five-time winner of the PSA Athlete of the Year award.

Paeng likewise made the INQUIRER's 1975 annual list of 10 Filipinos who made a difference.

* * *

What is the Bowling World Cup? In an interview, Paeng said: "The World Cup is not a competition where anyone can join from year to year. The competitor (in the men's division and the women's category) must first join a national elimination series, which takes about 100 games and three months to complete, before a winner is declared to represent a country."

It is acknowledged as the most difficult individual competition in the world and is played by over 100 million people. The bowler closest to matching Paeng's record is Norway's Arne Stroem with two World Cup championships to his credit. Stroem is now retired.

"It is unfortunate that bowling is not an Olympic sport," Paeng once said, "yet I treasure my World Cup achievements perhaps in the same way that Tiger Woods would appreciate his Augusta Masters victory in golf, another non-Olympic sport.

"I have served the country for almost four decades. Still, I did not receive nor seek even a single centavo from the government for any of my world competitions. There is no prize money in the Bowling World Cup in the same way that there are none in the Olympics. It suffices that I proudly carry the flag and bring honor to the country and the Filipino people. That is my reward."

* * *

Based purely on form and on their vast experience, plus the added advantage of playing before a home crowd, I say the Filipinos will be winners again this year in the ongoing World Pool championship at the Araneta Coliseum.

Red-hot Francisco "Django" Bustamante, 1999 winner Efren "Bata" Reyes, both mainstays of Puyat Sports; and defending champion Ronnie Alcano of Bugsy Promotions are my top picks to win the $100,000 first prize.

The strongest opposition will most likely come from the American contingent, not from the much feared players from Chinese Taipei.

SPORTSWATCH

Orchard Founders golf dangles BMW for ace

THE 11TH ORCHARD FOUNDERS INVITATIONAL golf tourney reels off on Nov. 22-25 with an array of attractive prizes that include a 2007 BMW 116i as a hole-in-one prize. Also at stake are two Business Class tickets to the West Coast packaged with a cruise to Baja, Mexico, aboard a luxury liner as grand raffle prizes for participants, compliments of Philippine Airlines and Baron Travel.

The BMW hole-in-one prize is at stake on all eight par three holes, four each at the Palmer and Player courses. Raffle prizes with a value of P1.5 million await the participant during the Thursday and Friday cocktails and the awards night on Sunday.

Even if nobody scores an ace in the four-day competition, anyone who buys a P2,500 raffle ticket will still have a chance to drive home either a BMW 320i or a BMW 116i, which are the grand raffle prizes, on top of other major prizes like a home theater and LCD TVs.

Xavier cage clinic Nov. 7

XAVIER BASKETBALL ACADEMY (XBA) will hold basketball clinics starting Nov. 7 for boys and girls five years and older at the Fr. Rafael Cortina Sports Center of Xavier School in Greenhills, San Juan.

The XBA clinics will also accept non-Xavier participants.

Head coach Nemie Villegas said the clinic's Saturday sessions are from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., and from 10 a.m. to noon, while Wednesday sessions are from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. For inquiries, call Imee at 7264855 or 7273329.

Rotary-Pareb golf Nov. 9

THE ROTARY CLUB OF NEW MANILA AND the Philippine Association of Real Estate Brokers (Pareb) will be holding their third fund-raising fun golf tournament on Nov. 9 at the South Course of the Valley Golf and Country Club in Antipolo, Rizal.

Presented by Breezewoods Development Corp., which is staking a townhouse unit as a hole-in-one prize, the tournament aims to raise funds for charitable and community projects of both the Rotary Club and Pareb. For inquiries, call Nanett Sinco at 0921-2315621 or 8818097.

NBA games move to ABC 5

SOLAR ENTERTAINMENT CORP. HAS launched House of Hoops on ABC 5 as a treat for local NBA Fans.

The show premiered at 7 p.m. last night.

Twice a week, Mondays and Saturdays, House of Hoops will air the NBA game of the day, along with informative segments covering news, special features, discussions and league highlights.

Aside from the pre-game, halftime and post-game discussions in the Huddle, NBA junkies can expect latest developments by way of the House of Hoops Headlines.

Pasig derby stakes P1.2 M

WITH THE MOULTING SEASON ALMOST over, cockers and breeders gird up for the Cock Season Opening 4-cock derby set Nov. 23, 28 and 30 at Pasig Square Garden with P1.2 million at stake.

Participants who will score two wins during the eliminations on Nov. 23 and 28 will share in the P80,000 prize, said hosts George and Danny Ty and Manny Berbano, who pegged the entry fee at P7,700.

The fastest win champion and second placer on Nov. 30 gets P150,000 and P40,000, respectively.

Meanwhile, the "Derby Natin Ito 3-cock derby" sizzles on Nov. 14.

RACING TIPS
BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Posse Comitatus (2), Kaye's Cat (6), Mika's Friend (1), Beautiful Smile (3)
Race 2—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Kimagure (8), Kambro (5), Golden Harry (4), American Inggo (6), Interceptor (2)
Race 3—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Striking Cat (2), Chabacana (7), Ilang Ilang Queen (5), Coat of Arms (4), Reign of Roses (5)
Race 4—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Cool Town (2), King Anthony (9), Minsk City (8), Sunline (4), El Terrible (5), Luck of the Irish (6)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Carmelita (3), King's Treasure (6), Sun And Wind (5), Urban Legend (2)
Race 6—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Treasured Ack (4), Passing Through (5), Xtreme Heat/Formidable Ella (7), Pay To See (10), Manila Magic (3), Farragut's Order (6)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Kate Alex (3), Aim For Gold (7), Fighting Jack/Heart of my Soul (8), Ocean Dignity (4), JJ's Friend (5)
Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Angle Red (2), Zacky's Friend (5), Field Star (6), Unleashed /Ocean Cookie (4), Real Tough (9), Material Ruler (10)

SSC, La Salle tossers score

Bualee big on offense anew

By Jasmine W. Payo

SAN SEBASTIAN TURNED TO THAI IMport Bualee Jaroensri anew to rally past Far Eastern U, 17-25, 25-11, 25-18, 25-9, yesterday for its fifth straight triumph in the Shakey's V-League women's volleyball second conference at The Arena in San Juan.

Jaroensri, who topscored with 26 points, also drew support from Laurence Ann Latigay, Jinni Mondejar and Rysabelle Devanadera as the unbeaten Lady Stags recovered from a shaky start.

In the second match, three-time champion La Salle swept Ateneo, 25-23, 25-19, 25-20, to sustain its semifinal bid with a 2-3 record.

The Lady Tamaraws looked poised to pull off an upset with Rachel Anne Daquis leading the attack until an ankle injury in the second set sidelined the FEU star player for the rest of the game.

Without their top scorer and blocker, the Lady Tamaraws failed to sustain their solid net game as the Lady Stags easily swept the next three sets.

Mondejar and Latigay posted 12 points apiece, while Devandera contributed 10 for the Lady Stags, who need to pull off two more wins versus Letran and Santo Tomas for an elimination-round sweep.

Daquis finished with seven points as the Lady Stags coasted to the four-set victory in one hour and 24 minutes.

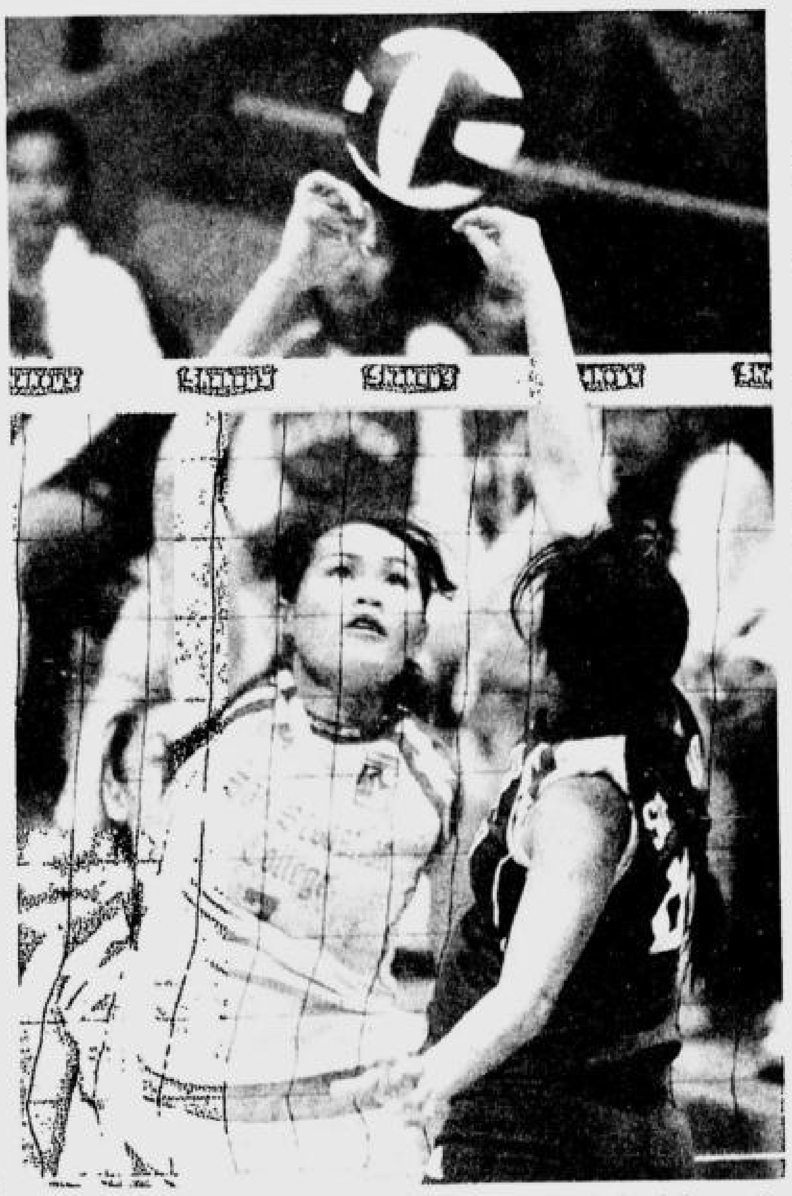
FEU and La Salle wound up tied at 2-3 to stay in the running for the fifth and last semifinal berth.

Maureen Penetrante and Jacqueline Alarca teamed up for 22 attacks and a 30-point out for the Lady Archers' straight-set win in 1:18.

The victory halted the Lady Archers' losing run after recent setbacks against San Sebastian and Lyceum.

The idle UST Tigresses grabbed second with a 4-1 slate as the Lady Eagles (4-2) fell to third.

Meanwhile, tournament organizer Sports Vision said the SSC-FEU match will be aired on NBN-4 at 2 p.m. tomorrow.



SAN Sebastian's Jaroensri Bualee (7) breaks through the defense of Ateneo's Charo Soriano. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Sevillano shares first with 6 GMs in Nevada

FILIPINO INTERNATIONAL MASTER ENRICO Sevillano emerged tied for first to seventh places with six grandmasters in the just concluded 5th Reno Western States Open Chess Championships in Reno, Nevada.

Sevillano wound up with 4.5 points, the same total posted by GMs Gregory Serper, Ildar Ibragimov, Sergey Kudrin, Alexander Ivanov, Alex Yermolinsky and Melikset Khachiyan, according to a Weekender report.

The coveted title, however, went to Serper, after the tiebreaker was applied.

The California-based Sevillano, given an Elo rating of 2582 by the United States Chess Federation, finished the six-round event undefeated with three wins and three draws.

Sevillano, a protege of sportsman National Master Matias "Bombi" Aznar, won the Asian junior crown in 1986, took part in the 1992 Manila Olympiad before migrating to the US.

Among Sevillano's victories this year are the Lina Grumette Memorial Classic and the Southern California State Championship.

A Cebuano, Sevillano was the first and only Filipino to qualify for the US Open.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

Corteza downs Wu for $3,000 side purse

REIGNING NATIONAL OPEN CHAMPION Lee Vann Corteza beat 2005 World Pool titlist Wu Chia-ching of Taiwan, 15-10, in their 10-ball match to pocket $3,000 at the One Side billiard hall in Malate, Manila, late Sunday.

"Yes, I beat Wu Chia-ching in 10-ball," said Corteza, the top player of Negros Billiard Stable and one of seven Filipino cue masters who advanced to the last 64 after the second day of the World Pool Championship.

"*Kasama yan* (money game) *sa* training *natin eh,*" said the 28-year-old Corteza, who is guaranteed a $2,000 purse for advancing to the knockout stage.

After an opening 7-9 setback to Serbia's Goran Mladenovic, 7-9, Corteza bounced back by demolishing Taiwanese Pei Wei Chang, 9-4, and American Jeremy Jones, 9-4, last Sunday.

Unlike Corteza, Asian Games silver medalist Jeffrey "Bata" de Luna ended up on the short end of his duel with reigning US Open 9-ball champion Shane Van Boening, 21-13, and blew away $1,000 at the Bugsy billiard hall in Quezon City. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Tight security for Brunei's top player

PRINCE Muhtadee Billah's multi-vehicle convoy includes five bullet-proof luxury vehicles. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

By Musong R. Castillo

TALK OF HEAVY SECURITY.

Prince Muhtadee Billah, the crown prince of Brunei who happens to be an excellent pool player, is competing in the $400,000 World Pool Championship here for the second straight year.

And he's drawing attention not only for his skills.

Five bullet-proof vehicles—a Toyota Prado and a Fortuner, two luxury Mercedes Benz sedans and an S-Class stretch limo—provided by Malacañang's protocol department are being used by the Prince to compete in the event.

Not only that, at least 15 armed Presidential Security Group personnel are taking care of the Prince.

PSG members who don't fit into the bullet-proof vehicles—the Prince's entourage includes relatives and friends—ride in a convoy of American-made cars.

The Prince has been in the country now for a full week and his security is boosted by private bodyguards with M-16s and other assault rifles.

Fiery Earl back for more

EARL Strickland, the fiery American who won this tournament at the expense of a grieving Francisco "Django" Bustamante in 2001, says it's better to gamble in golf than in pool.

"There are so many unscrupulous people in pool that you cannot even call it a sport," Strickland tells the INQUIRER in a tirade aimed at no one in particular.

Asked how his golf game is as this reporter joined him at the walkway of the Araneta Coliseum, the man they call Earl the Pearl went ballistic.

For no apparent reason, he seemed to be blasting away at the fans and, obviously, at some of the other players in the WPC field.

"In golf, when you miss a short putt, the people will react by saying 'Ooohhh!'" said Strickland, who played golf rounds at the Orchard in Cavite the last time he was here.

"In this game, people clap when you miss that kind of a shot. What kind of mentality is that? And every time I play, my opponent thinks I'm an a-----e and that he'll beat me.

"You go and correct that mentality."

His ascerbic views notwithstanding, Strickland is still in the tournament and will debut against Alan Tan of Malaysia today.

Costly campaign for some

A foreign campaigner in the 2007 WPC loses a lot of money if he fails to win a match in the group phase and gets eliminated after two games.

Canadian Alain Martel said he forked out close to $4,000 (about P172,000) to be able to compete here and play.

That, of course, includes hotel accommodation, food and other expenses.

In some cases where players get eliminated early, Philippine tourism makes a killing.

The big Canadian, who stands at least 6-foot-1 and weighs no less than 250 pounds, became the final qualifier in Group 6, the bracket that includes sentimental Filipino favorite Efren "Bata" Reyes, after squeezing out a 9-6 win over Ceri Worts of New Zealand on Saturday night.

Best of best clash for NCA Nat'l Champs Derby title

WHO WILL PUT AWAY THE year's National Cockers' Association (NCA) Stag National Championship Derby title?

This will be known today when top gamefowl breeders and enthusiasts duke it out at the world-class Pasay City cockpit.

Today's derby is the last in a series for the NCA Stag National Championship crown.

The top four contenders are Jade Resort I with 16.5 points, Spartan 1225 with 15.5, Jimafer Mulawin with 14.5 and Super Pacman of national boxing hero Manny Pacquiao with 13.5.

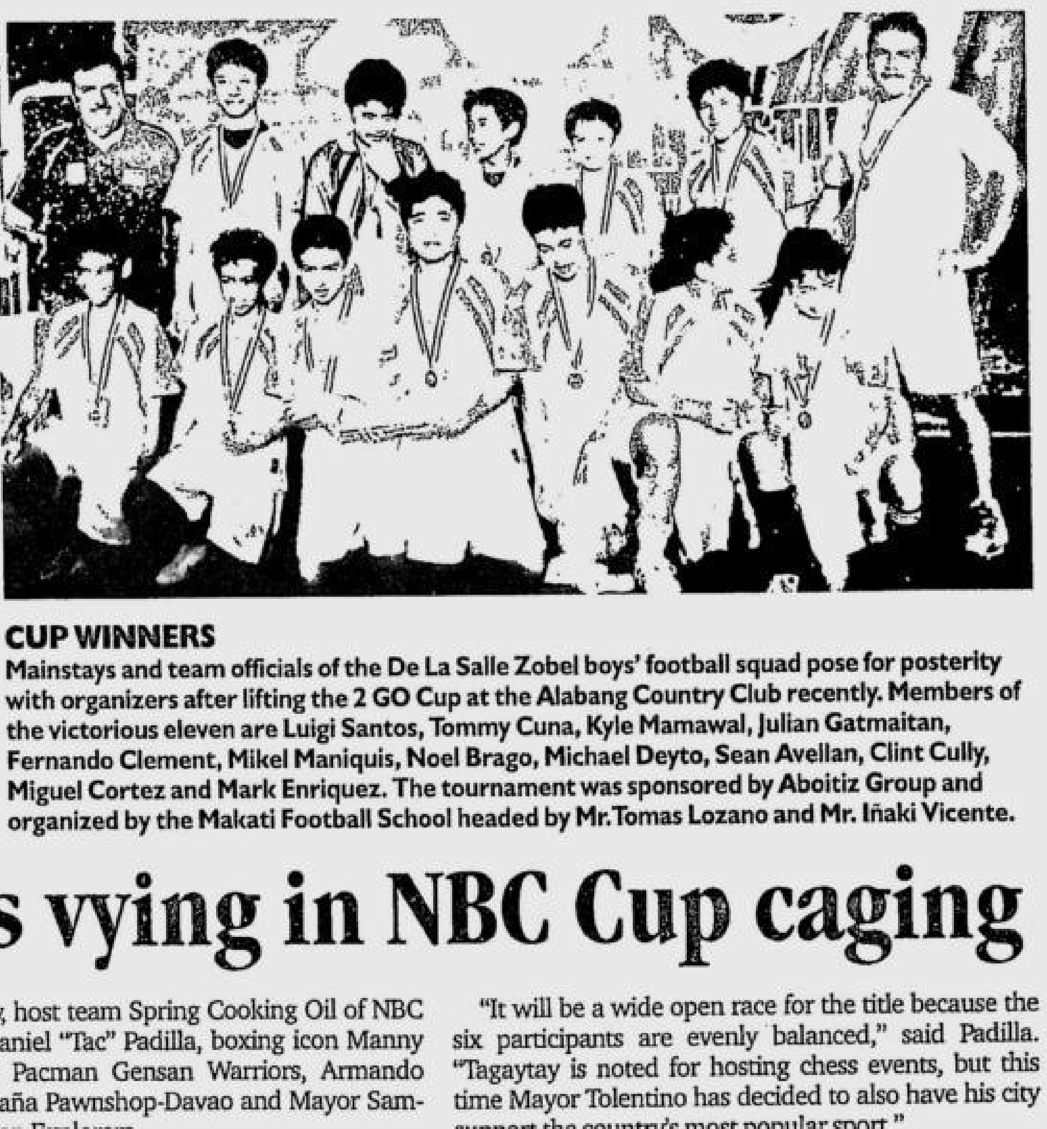
A big part of derby proceeds will go to the education of the NCA's four scholars at the University of the Philippines-Los Baños and at the Miriam Academy for Computer Science in Quezon City.

The best of the best in Philippine cockfighting are fielding their aces in the championship.

Among the entries: Gov. Ito Ynares, Boyet Joson, Mayor Ellan Nagaño, Manny and Arman Santos, Rey Briones, Mario Villamor, Manny Pacquiao, Jerry Ramos, Eric dela Rosa, the Firefly Group, chair Rudy Albano;

Engineer Efren Canlas, Patrick Antonio, Rep. Iggy Arroyo, T. Sevilla, Edwin Santos, Joey and Buboy delos Santos, Tony Marfori, Jun-Jun Salazar, Ruel Ricafort, Edgar Santos, Bebot Rojas, Emie Subia, Emie Austria, Essie Mallllin, Johnny Jalandoni, Boy Velez, Paeng Arciaga, Buddy Dungca, Charlie and Cyrus Hao, Jack Yap, Jimmy Ang, Louie Cua;

Pol Estrellado, Nelson Salvanera, Boyet Joson, Nene Aguilar, Bebot Villar, Edwin Abella, and Tony Lasala.



CUP WINNERS

Mainstays and team officials of the De La Salle Zobel boys' football squad pose for posterity with organizers after lifting the 2 GO Cup at the Alabang Country Club recently. Members of the victorious eleven are Luigi Santos, Tommy Cuna, Kyle Mamawal, Julian Gatmaitan, Fernando Clement, Mikel Maniquis, Noel Brago, Michael Deyto, Sean Avellan, Clint Cully, Miguel Cortez and Mark Enriquez. The tournament was sponsored by Aboitiz Group and organized by the Makati Football School headed by Mr.Tomas Lozano and Mr. Iñaki Vicente.

Sacred Heart, ICCHS top Best Visayas finals

BACOLOD CITY—SACRED HEART SCHOOL-Jesuit of Cebu and Iloilo Central Commercial Hogh School (ICCHS) posted lopsided victories to emerge SBP and Passerelle champions, respectively, in the Visayas regional finals Sunday at the West Negros College gym here.

Sacred Heart whipped Ateneo de Iloilo, 59-43, while ICCHS crushed Sacred Heart, 69-49, to advance to the national finals of the youth cagefest organized by Best Center and sponsored by Milo.

St. John's Institute grabbed the Sportsmanship Award in both the SBP and Passerelle divisions.

The scores:

SBP Final

SACRED HEART 59—Muller 16, I. Lim 10, Sing 6, Abbu 6, Go 4, Ant Araw-Araw 4, Fernando 4, Catan 3, Yu 2, Chua 2, Arc Araw-Araw 2, Luy 0, Mercado 0, A. Lim 0, Saceda 0.

ATENEO 43—A. Denila 8, Lopez 6, Go 6, Cadiena 5, Cercado 4, Alhambra 4, Tan 2, Nunal 2, Mallare 2, Valencia 2, Porras 1, Hechanova 1, M. Denila 0, Abanero 0, Onglatco 0

Halftime: 25-18

Passerelle Final

ICCHS 69—Pelopero 17, Melocoton, 13, Palmes 7. Tomilloso 6, Gaitan 6, Chu 6, Selguera 3, Nograles 3, Vargas 3, Coo 2, Posadas 2, Lee 1, Lim 0, Lopez 0, Golez 0.

SACRED HEART 49—Jay dela Cruz 13, Diaz 8, Jus dela Cruz 6, Seno 5, Tagaloguin 4, Mangubat 4, Sta. Maria 4. Tecson 3, Roma 2, Yu 0, Zozobrado 0, Branzuela 0, Purcia 0, Alicias 0

Halftime: 33-22

Two foreign squads vying in NBC Cup caging

A SELECTION FROM MALAYSIA AND A CLUB team from the Indonesia Basketball League will see action in the 2007 NBC (National Basketball Conference) International Invitational Cup to be hosted by Tagaytay City on Nov. 23-27.

The foreigners will compete with four local squads in the second staging of the event backed by Champion Sportswear, Sulpicio Lines and Spring Cooking Oil.

Tagaytay Mayor Bambol Tolentino, who is also NBC's executive vice president, has promised to roll out the red carpet for visiting teams and the four local squads, namely, host team Spring Cooking Oil of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla, boxing icon Manny Pacquiao's MP Pacman Gensan Warriors, Armando Quibod's Montaña Pawnshop-Davao and Mayor Sammy Co's Pagadian Explorers.

"We're honored to host another international tournament to renew our ties with our Asian neighbors and at the same time bring exciting basketball action to local fans," said Tolentino.

Villa-Anita Quezon ruled last year's Invitational Cup, beating SBI's Eastern Antelope of Taiwan in the finals.

"It will be a wide open race for the title because the six participants are evenly balanced," said Padilla. "Tagaytay is noted for hosting chess events, but this time Mayor Tolentino has decided to also have his city support the country's most popular sport."

The six teams will play one round, with the top two finishers clashing for the crown.

The tournament is part of NBC's preparation for its fourth season next year. The Firefly-Iligan Explorers of Mayor Lawrence Cruz dethroned the three-time NBC champion in its last event this year.

Suns shine with Nash; Celtics shade Raptors

PHOENIX—STEVE NASH SCORED 30 points and had 10 assists and the Phoenix Suns— playing without Amare Stoudemire —rallied from a 12-point second-quarter deficit and beat the Cleveland Cavaliers, 103-92, on Sunday.

Stoudemire, the Suns' All-Star center, was sidelined because of soreness in his right knee. He had arthroscopic surgery on the knee Oct. 2. Coach Mike D'Antoni said Stoudemire was day to day.

Shawn Marion had 23 points and 12 rebounds for the Suns. Leandro Barbosa scored 14 points, and Boris Diaw, who started in place of Stoudemire scored 16. Nash had 22 points in the second half.

LeBron James scored 27 points, 21 in the second half, while Zydrunas Ilgauskas and Drew Gooden each scored 22. Gooden had 14 rebounds and Ilgauskas 13.

Celtics 98, Raptors 95, OT

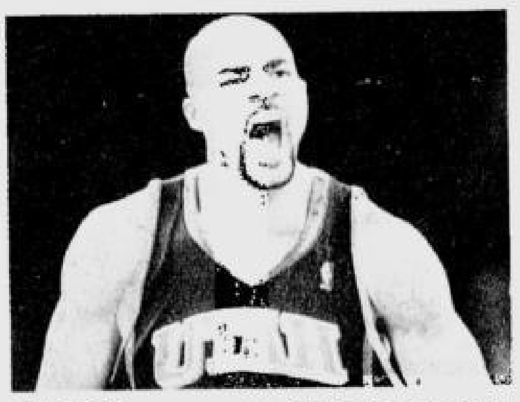
At Toronto, Ray Allen made the winning 3-pointer with less than 3 seconds to play, finished with 33 points and Boston won without coach Doc Rivers at the helm.

Kevin Garnett scored 10 of his 23 points in overtime and added 13 rebounds, giving him double-doubles in both of his games for Boston this season.

The Celtics played without Rivers, who left Toronto early Sunday after his father died in Chicago. Assistant Tom Thibodeau took over for Rivers.

Pistons 92, Hawks 91

At Auburn Hills, Michigan, Chauncey Billups hit a free throw with 1.7 seconds left to give Detroit a come-from-behind victory over Atlanta.



CARLOS Boozer reacts after being called for an offensive foul against the Lakers. AP

Detroit overcame three starters scoring in single digits to improve to 3-0.

Clippers 115, SuperSonics 101

At Los Angeles, Corey Maggette scored 27 points and Tim Thomas made three 3-pointers during a one-minute span late in the fourth quarter to lead Los Angeles over Seattle.

Thomas finished with 20 points, Cuttino Mobley added 17 points and Chris Kaman had 15 rebounds for the Clippers, who were coming off a season-opening 120-114 win against Golden State on Friday night.

Kevin Durant scored 24 points to lead Seattle, which is 0-3 for the first time since 1985.

Bobcats 90, Heat 88

At Miami, Jason Richardson scored 29 points and Charlotte wasted a 16-point fourth-quarter lead before rallying to beat Miami.

Raymond Felton added 19 for Charlotte, which is two games over .500—2-0—for the first time in its four-year history.

Shaquille O'Neal scored 17 points for the Heat (0-3).

Hornets 93, Nuggets 88

At Denver, David West overcame a slow start to score 17 points and help New Orleans remain undefeated.

West missed his first eight shots before settling in, helping the Hornets improved to 3-0 and handing Denver its first loss.

Marcus Camby pulled down 21 rebounds for the second straight game for the Nuggets (2-1), who haven't started a season with three straight wins since 1985-86.

Knicks 97, Timberwolves 93

At New York, Jamal Crawford scored 10 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter and New York won its home opener for the first time in six years.

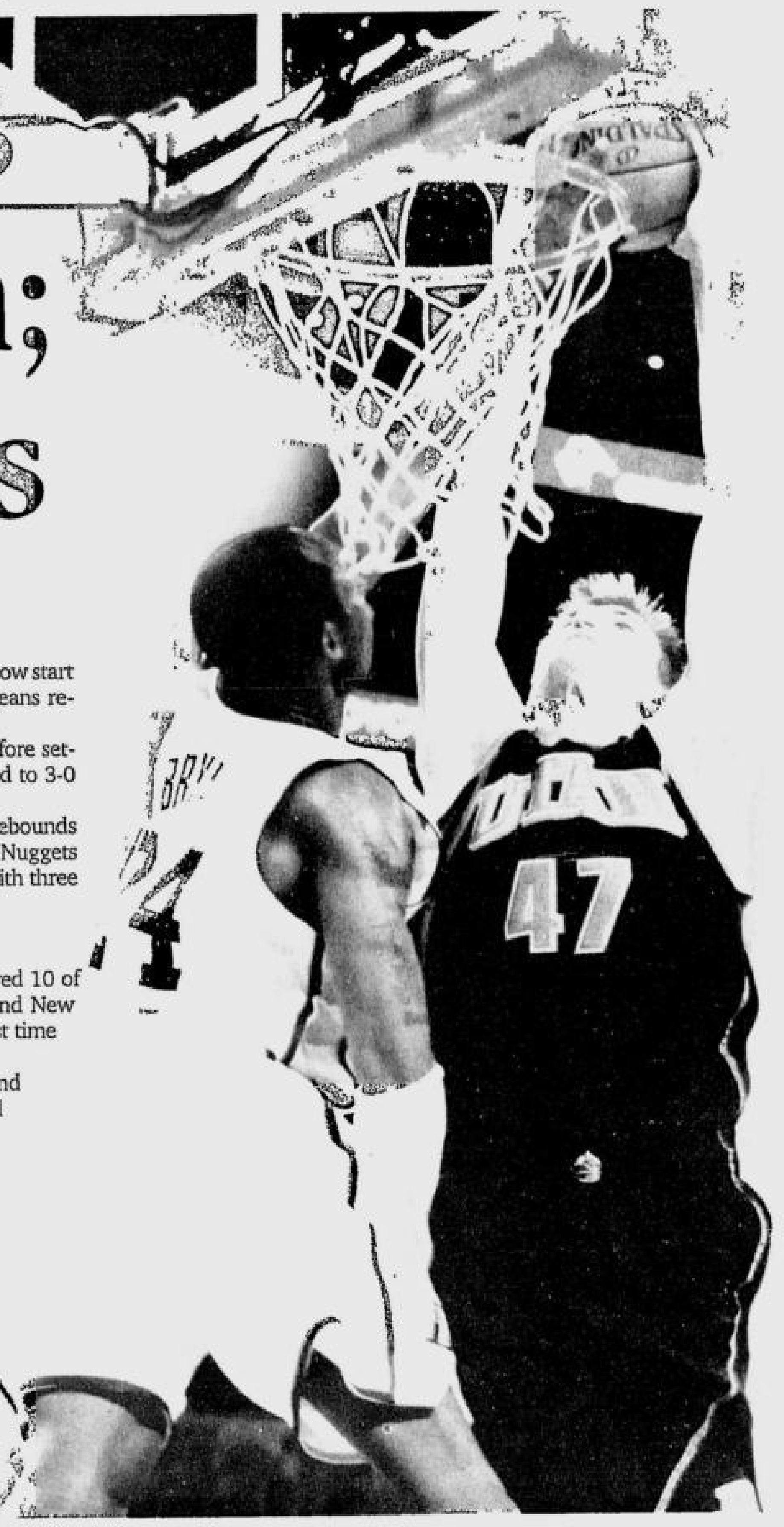
Zach Randolph added 15 points and 10 rebounds for the Knicks, who had lost five straight home openers since beating Washington in 2001.

Lakers 119, Jazz 109

At Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant scored six of his 33 points in the final 4 1/2 minutes after blocking an attempted dunk by Andrei Kirilenko, and Los Angeles beat Utah.

Bryant was 13-for-19 from the field and fellow guard Derek Fisher added 19 points. Andrew Bynum had 15 points and nine rebounds off the bench before fouling out with 55 seconds to play. AP

NBA on Solar Sports today
9:30 a.m.– Houston vs Dallas (replay at 9 p.m.)



KOBE Bryant of the Los Angeles Lakers blocks a shot by Andrei Kirilenko of the Utah Jazz at Staples Center on Sunday. The Lakers prevailed, 119-109. AP

Davenport grabs 53rd WTA plum

QUEBEC CITY, CANADA—LINDSAY DAVENPORT won the 53rd WTA title of her career here Sunday, defeating third-seeded Julia Vakulenko, 6-4, 6-1, in the final of the $175,000 Bell Challenge.

It was Davenport's second victory in just three tournaments in 2007.

After taking nearly a year off because of pregnancy, the three-time Grand Slam champion and former world No. 1 returned to win the title in Bali in September.

She ousted three seeded players on the way to that unexpected title, then followed up with a semifinal appearance in Beijing the following week.

A month later, the 31-year-old American was still showing no signs of rust in Quebec City.

In five matches at the indoor tournament she posted four straight-set wins. Only second seeded Russian Vera Zvonareva was able to mount a real challenge before falling, 6-2, 6-7 (3/7), 6-3, to Davenport in the semifinals.

Although she had never faced Ukraine's Vakulenko before, Davenport dispatched her with relative ease.

Davenport broke Vakulenko to love to take the first set, and used her powerful serve to dominate the second.

With the victory, Davenport is tied with Monica Seles for eighth on the WTA's all-time list. *AFP*

NALBANDIAN: Emerging threat AFP

MASTERS SERIES

Nalbandian tames Nadal

PARIS—DAVID NALBANDIAN OF Argentina handed out a tennis lesson to world No. 2 Rafael Nadal to win his second straight Masters Series title here on Sunday.

The Argentinian won at a canter 6-4, 6-0 taking nine games in a row from 3-4 down in the first set against an increasingly disillusioned-looking Spaniard, who has been struggling with his fitness since the summer.

It was Nalbandian's second straight win in one of the Masters Series tournaments having defeated world No. 1 Roger Federer in the final of the Madrid Masters last month.

He also defeated Federer in Paris at the third round (last 16) stage, but unless someone withdraws through injury he will not be able to compete in the Masters Series finals in Shanghai later this month.

The win in Paris hoists him to ninth in the ATP Masters Series race, but only eight players qualify.

"I played magnificently all week and in Madrid and I am so happy," said Nalbandian, who has hit a rich vein of form in recent weeks after what had been for him a disappointing season.

In Madrid, he defeated the top three players in the world—Federer, Nadal and Djokovic and in Paris he once again despatched the top two—Federer and Nadal.

The former world No. 3 lost only one set in Paris—to Spain's David Ferrer in the quarterfinals.

For Nadal, it was the end to a 25-match winning streak in Paris taking in three French Open titles and his four wins here to get to the final.

But he will be seeded two behind Federer in Shanghai which starts on Nov. 12. *AFP*

Ames snaps yearlong US Tour title drought

LAKE BUENA VISTA, FLORIDA—Trinidad-born Canadian Stephen Ames captured his first US PGA Tour title in more than a year Sunday, holding off South African Tim Clark by a stroke in the final event of the season.

Ames carded a four-under par 68 for a 17-under total of 271 in the $4.6 million Children's Miracle Network Classic.

He claimed his first title since the 2006 The Players Championship, nabbing three birdies in a row from the 13th to seize the lead and hanging on from there.

Ames finished the day with five birdies and one bogey.

Clark carded a 66, with all six of his birdies coming in an eight-hole stretch from the ninth. The South African settled for his third runner-up finish of the season. *AFP*

AMES plays his third shot at the 18th hole. AFP

Ueda clinches Mizuno crown

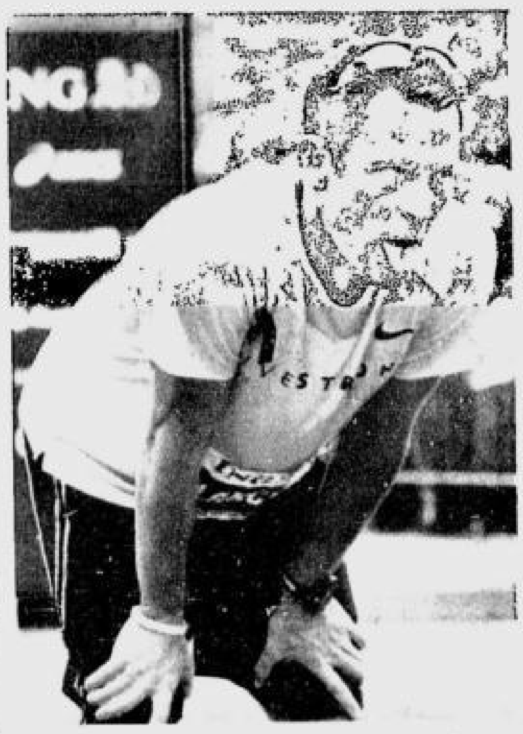
SHIMA, JAPAN—MOMOKO UEDA BECAME the first Japanese player to win the Mizuno Classic in nine years Sunday, closing with a 5-under 66 that included a double eagle. Ueda held off American Reilley Rankin and Sweden's Maria Hjorth to win by two strokes.

Ueda finished at 13-under 203 to earn her first LPGA Tour victory.

Hiromi Kobayashi was the last Japanese player to win the Mizuno, taking the 1998 tournament at Musashigaoka.

Rankin and Hjorth, the 1999 champion, closed with 67s. *AP*

RADCLIFFE hoists her country's flag after a victorious run. AP



A FAGGED-OUT Lance Armstrong at the finish line. AFP

Radcliffe returns triumphant

NEW YORK—BRITISH WORLD record-holder Paula Radcliffe made a triumphant marathon return on Sunday, winning the New York City Marathon 10 months after the birth of her daughter.

Radcliffe, 33, won in 2hr 23min 9sec, beating Ethiopian Gete Wami (2:23:32) to complete a wire-to-wire victory. Radcliffe added another New York title to the one she captured in 2004.

Latvian Jelena Prokopcuka, the winner in New York the past two years, finished third in 2:26:13.

Radcliffe owns four of the five fastest marathons in history, including the world record of 2:15:25. But she hadn't run a marathon since claiming the world championship gold at Helsinki in 2005.

Reigning world champion Catherine Ndereba of Kenya, finished fifth (2:29:08) behind Russian Lidiya Grigoryeva (2:28:37).

Radcliffe and Wami separated themselves from the field early, but it was the 33-year-old Briton who prevailed by 23 seconds at the finish in Central Park.

The men's race finished in similar style as Kenya's Martin Lel held off Morocco's Abderrahim Goumri in the final meters to win in 2:09:04.

Lel, the winner in New York in 2003, defeated Goumri by 12 seconds.

Another former New York titlist, 2004 winner Hendrick Ramaala of South Africa, was third in 2:11:25.

Radcliffe, whose first child, daughter Isla, was born in January, led throughout the women's race with Wami on her heels.

Wami, who has bested Radcliffe numerous times on road, track and cross country courses, stuck to the world record-holder like a limpet.

Radcliffe has now won all seven of the marathons she has completed. Her 2004 victory in New York came in the wake of her agonizing failure to finish the Olympic marathon in Athens. *AFP*

Armstrong makes goal

NEW YORK—SEVEN-TIME TOUR DE France champion Lance Armstrong reached his New York City Marathon goal on Sunday, by breaking two hours, 50 minutes in his second race over the distance. Armstrong, who retired from cycling after his 2005 Tour victory, ran 2:46:43, nearly 13 minutes faster than his marathon debut here last year of 2:59:36. ***Reuters***

DELL Optiplex 755

Simple to cutomize, quick to deploy and ready to scale for whatever your business needs

INTEGRATED COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC.
+632 727 3801 • 744 3000 www.ics.com.ph

Website: www.inquirer.net/business

BUSINESS

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** • *Assistant Editor* **Corrie S. Narisma**

Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) **E-mail:** business@inquirer.com.ph

FUELED FOR BETTER VALUES

Get 3% fuel rebate

Call 89-100 to get your own Petron-BPI Mastercard!

90-day T-bill rate eases to 3.7%

Treasury rejects all bids for one-year securities

By Michelle V. Remo

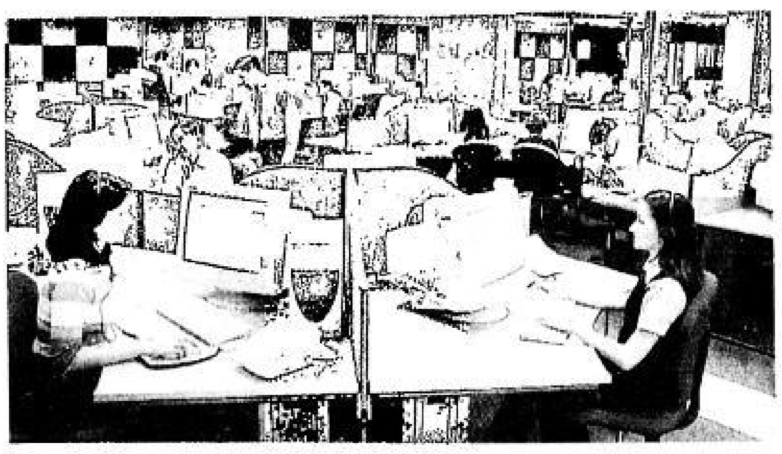
THE GOVERNMENT YESTERDAY REJECTED ALL BIDS FOR THE 364-day treasury bills to prevent an increase in one-year interest rates.

Finance Undersecretary Roberto Tan, who is also acting national treasurer, said the yields sought by banks for the one-year securities were unreasonable considering a relatively calm market.

Had the Bureau of the Treasury's auction committee accepted bids for the one-year bills, the 364-day rate could have risen to 5.934 percent, 30.6 basis points higher than the 5.628 percent set during the previous auction. (One percentage point is equivalent to 100 basis points.)

Tenders for the one-year bills amounted to P2.76 billion, higher than the government's offering of P2.5 billion. Despite the

90-DAY/ B2



THE ROADMAP strives for the country to become a global BPO player.

BPO firms draw up roadmap to 2010

By Ronnel W. Domingo

BUSINESS PROCESS OUTsourcing firms are anticipating better growth potentials in the next three years with the launch yesterday of an industry roadmap that seeks to address concerns about the supply of qualified workers, among others.

Benedict C. Hernandez, senior vice president of eTelecare Global Solutions' Philippine operations, said in an interview that the program, dubbed "Offshoring and Outsourcing Philippines: Roadmap 1020 Report," would enhance BPO firms' chances of growing their businesses.

"We (at eTelecare) have been active in preparing the roadmap and we are excited now that the Business Process Association of

BPO/ B4

Peso weakens to 43.885 to $1

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO YESTERDAY HIT A NEW SEVEN-year peak of 43.55 but pulled back to a sharply weaker finish of 43.885 against the dollar due to renewed concerns over the credit crunch in the United States.

The local currency opened at 43.65 and hit its intra-day high of 43.55 due to overseas remittances and stock market inflows that accumulated during the long holiday break, but fresh global jitters that spooked major US, European and Asian stock markets reversed the trend.

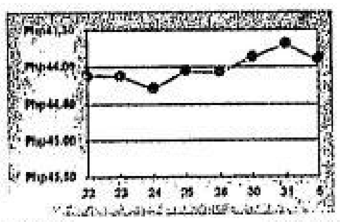
Closing at its intra-day low, the local currency lost 21.5 centavos from last week's close of 43.675. Volume at the spot foreign exchange market Philippine Dealing System, however, was thin at $403.7 million.

"It looks like the market has entered a consolidation mode," said Rizal Commer-

PESO/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



OCTOBER NOVEMBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

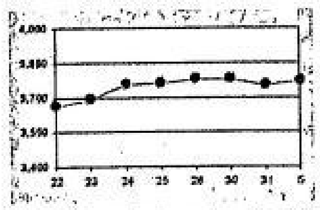
P 43.885 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Nov. 5, 2007

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

OCTOBER NOVEMBER

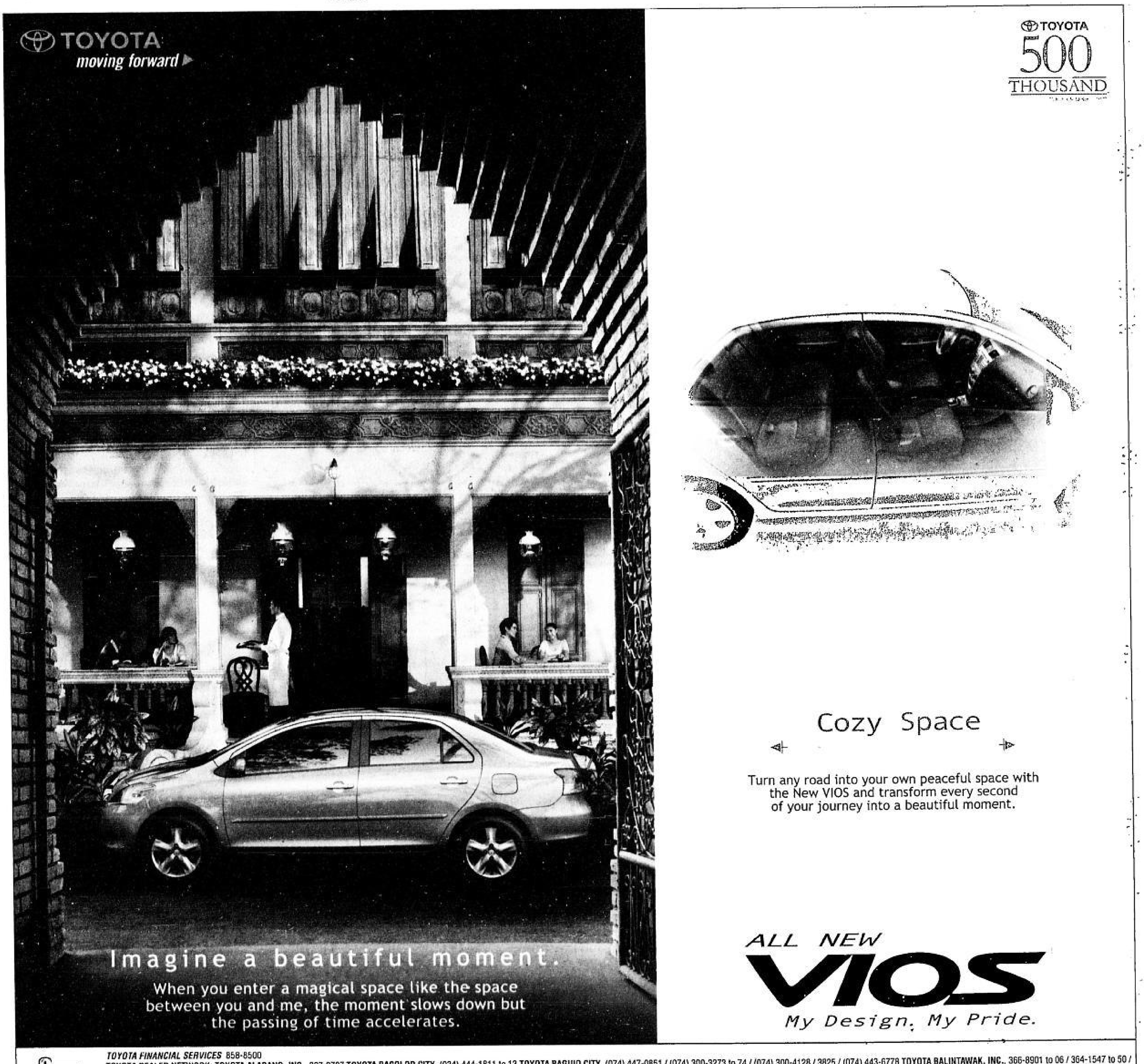


(See stock market report on Page B4)

Stocks close slightly higher

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.4-percent higher yesterday, with investors treading cautiously ahead of third-quarter company

STOCKS/ B4


TOYOTA
moving forward
TOYOTA 500 THOUSAND
Cozy Space
Turn any road into your own peaceful space with the New VIOS and transform every second of your journey into a beautiful moment.
Imagine a beautiful moment.
When you enter a magical space like the space between you and me, the moment slows down but the passing of time accelerates.
ALL NEW VIOS
My Design. My Pride.

TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES 858-8500
TOYOTA DEALER NETWORK: TOYOTA ALABANG, INC., 807-0707 TOYOTA BACOLOD CITY, (034) 444-1811 to 13 TOYOTA BAGUIO CITY, (074) 447-0851 / (074) 300-3273 to 74 / (074) 300-4128 / 3825 / (074) 443-6778 TOYOTA BALINTAWAK, INC., 366-8901 to 06 / 364-1547 to 50 / 364-4071 to 75 TOYOTA BALINTAWAK-NORTH. 927-7215 / 17 / 30 / 39 / 927-7242 / 44 / 48 / 52 / 927-7257 / 62 / 65 / 927-7268 / 69 TOYOTA BATANGAS CITY, INC., (043) 723-7366 / (043) 723-7639 TOYOTA BICUTAN PARAÑAQUE. 777-9500 TOYOTA CABANATUAN CITY,INC., (044) 463-8481 to 87 TOYOTA CAGAYAN DE ORO, INC., (08822) 735-770 / 791 / 846 / (088) 858-9994 / (088) 858-7770 / (08822) 737-480 TOYOTA CEBU CITY, INC., (032) 253-1161 TOYOTA CEBU-MANDAUE. (032) 345-8670 TOYOTA COMMONWEALTH. 952-1021 to 27 TOYOTA CUBAO, INC., 911-0651 to 63 TOYOTA DAGUPAN CITY, INC., (075) 517-2026 to 28 / (075) 522-6771 / 6734/ 4773 TOYOTA DASMARIÑAS CAVITE. (046) 850-2036 / (046) 850-2929 / (02) 529-8116 sales direct / (02) 529-8132 sales fax TOYOTA DAVAO CITY, INC., (082) 234-0998 / (082) 234-2994 / (082) 234-8640 TOYOTA ILOILO CITY, INC., (033) 320-6115 to 19 TOYOTA MAKATI, INC., 897-3333 TOYOTA MANILA BAY CORP., 832-3408 to 10 / 832-3432 to 34 / 832-3384 / 832-3437 TOYOTA MARIKINA SERVICE STATION. 682-9701 to 03 TOYOTA OTIS, INC., 564-1811 to 20 TOYOTA PASONG TAMO, INC., 893-8084 TOYOTA QUEZON AVENUE, INC., 712-5001 to 06 TOYOTA SAN FERNANDO. (045) 961-1188 TOYOTA SHAW, INC., 717-0707 to 08 TOYOTA SHAW-ORTIGAS. 671-9854 to 64 / 671-0460

www.toyota.com.ph

90-day T-bill rate ...

From page B1

oversubscription, Tan said the bids were not competitive enough to be awarded.

The bellwether 91-day bills, however, fetched a lower rate of 3.7 percent with the renewed interest of banks in short-term instruments. The latest rate for the three-months bills was 5.8 basis points lower than the previous rate of 3.758 percent.

Bids for the three-month debt instruments reached P2.93 billion, higher than the government's debt offering of P1.5 billion.

Similarly, the 182-day bills fetched a lower rate yesterday as it attracted the highest number of tenders. The latest rate for the six-month government securities reached 5.934 percent, 10.5 basis points lower than the previous rate of 5.628 percent.

Bids for the six-month debt paper amounted to P5.01 billion compared with the government offering of only P2 billion.

"Because banks are on the wait-and-see mode, they were putting their investments in shorter-term placements that can be mobilized much easier," Tan told reporters in a briefing after the auction.

Tan said some banks were waiting on the sidelines before investing in instruments with at least one-year maturity in the light of the decision of the US Federal Reserve last Nov. 1 to cut its key interest rate by 25 basis points to 4.5 percent.

The cut in the Fed rate was intended to spur US economic growth, which was said to have been restrained in the past by previous interest-rate increases.

Dubai World checking Cebu?

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

ALL RIGHT, SO THE PUBLICLY LISTED TKC Steel is doing a P2.6-billion FOO, which is short for "follow on offering," meaning, that the company is raising money after its backdoor listing early this year.

So what will it do with the P2.6 billion? In the FOO prospectus, the company indicated that it is investing in an aggressive expansion of its factory.

But whispers in the stock market point to a TKC Steel plan to venture in the revived mining industry, going into huge deals with operators of existing mining sites in Surigao del Norte, Zambales and Zamboanga, and in the Bicol region.

My info is that TKC Steel intends to set up a subsidiary for the mining ventures, primarily in iron ore and coal, which it actually needs for its blast furnace that is scheduled to be operational next year.

For one, the coal venture will ensure TKC Steel a steady supply of fuel. Also, owning the coal mine obviously translates into lower costs.

To my mind, moreover, while the mining subsidiary can also be expected to develop the technology for testing the iron content and iron grade used by TKC Steel, the mining venture does not have to service purely in-house needs.

It can make money selling to other countries, particularly China, which is so gung-ho about mining in this country that it is said to be ready to buy any mineral, at any quantity of any grade, that we can produce in this life and in the next.

Remember what the Neda said: This country has trillions (yes, with a "t") of pesos worth of unexplored mineral resources.

* * *

MAJORITY owner of TKC Steel is the Tiu family, which has been in the steel business for the past 40 years, aside from other businesses such as Sterling Bank of Asia, I-Remit and Discovery Group of Hotels.

The president of TKC Steel is Tito Dizon, who has been in steel manufacturing and trading all his professional life.

Now, word has it that the world's biggest steel-trading company called Stemcor is interested in a private placement in the FOO of TKC Steel. Hmm!

Another one is said to be the DEG Bank from Germany. Double hmm!

Surely they know that the demand for steel worldwide is still growing, what with the inventories going down (particularly in the United States), while the demand (particularly in China and in India) continues to grow.

For one, China is targeting an urbanization of some 50 percent of its population, which is currently at less than 30 percent.

As for India, steel consumption is projected to rise from 48 million tons today to 110 million by 2012.

And so instead of loans, TKC Steel is going for the interest-free FOO money to finance its aggressive expansion. It's safer that way, right?

* * *

IF CEBU plays its tourism card right, it will get investments to propel itself to a top global tourist destination. Recently, Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia arranged a visit to her province a foreign group led by Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, who happens to be the chair of Dubai World, and who expressed interest in investing in real estate ventures in the province.

Now, Dubai World is only the company that is managing the investment of the government of the oil-rich Dubai, which must have money flowing out of its ears, or oil wells, as world oil prices are about to hit $100 a barrel.

Anyway, Dubai World is behind those huge man-made islands off the coast of Dubai called "Palm Islands," simply because they are shaped like palm trees.

The project was featured in the National Geographic channel's "Mega Structures" for being the engineering marvel that could be seen from outer space.

The company is following up the project with the one called "The World." Yes, it is also made up of man-made islands that, together, look like the map of the world.

You know—that kind of investible funds!

Now, Cebu really has fine beaches, not to mention its people that are known to be among the most hospitable in the Philippines, if not the whole world.

It's just that Cebu does not have enough first-rate hotels for those heavy spending jet-set crowd, something that Thailand had the vision to pursue years ago.

If a group can make it happen for Cebu, perhaps to Gwen Garcia it can only be Dubai World. Nobody can blame her.

* * *

ONE MAJOR subsidiary of Dubai World is called DP World. And guess what—the subsidiary already located its Asean regional office here in the Philippines.

DP World is the owner of Asian Terminal Inc., or ATI, which operates the ports in Manila (South Harbor), Batangas, and South Cotabato, plus the Mariveles Grains Terminal in Bataan.

From what I gathered, the company actually has global operations, involving 42 terminals in 22 countries, employing some 30,000 professionals who belong to about 40 nationalities. That kind of global!

Its terminals can handle an equivalent of 48 million 20-foot container units a year.

Okay, put another way, such a capacity means that if the containers are lined up end to end, they can go around the earth five times.

Not only that, DP World is developing 13 more terminals in nine countries, which can increase its yearly capacity to 90 million 20-foot container units.

Plus, the company is into logistics business in Hong Kong and China, owning the Hong Kong-based ATL, the market leader in warehouse and office leasing, cargo handling, containers freight station and distribution services.

One last thing: The company runs the P&O Maritime Services in Melbourne, providing maritime services to governments (mainly defense, science and security sectors), and to private industry (bulk services).

You mean, this is a company that decided to locate its regional office here in the Philippines? You better believe it.

Invest like a Pro!

106.7%

total net returns of the Prosperity Balanced Fund
in just 3 years and 9 months!

The Sun Life Prosperity Balanced Fund is the simplest investment choice you can make. You can get the best mix of equities and fixed income securities to optimize your money's earning potential while cushioning the impact of market fluctuations.

Sun Life Prosperity Funds	Fund Component	AFTER-TAX RETURN				
		2004	2005	2006	3-Year Return*	3-Year & 9-Month Return**
Bond	Fixed income	7.9%	11.1%	12.0%	34.2%	34.9%
Balanced	Fixed income and stocks	19.1%	10.0%	34.3%	75.9%	106.7%
Philippine Equity	Primarily stocks	20.2%	11.3%	44.0%	92.7%	134.4%

Please note that these figures only indicate past performance over the given periods and do not necessarily indicate future returns.
*Period is from December 31, 2003 to December 31, 2006.
**Period is from December 31, 2003 to September 30, 2007.

PROSPERITY FUNDS
Investing made easy.

Invest wisely. Important information about the Sun Life Prosperity Funds is contained in their simplified prospectuses. Please obtain copies from a licensed Sun Life Mutual Fund Representative and read them carefully before investing. Share values, yields and investment returns will fluctuate.

For more information, call 849-9888
or visit www.sunlifefunds.com

Sun Life Financial

In the Philippines, Sun Life Financial is represented by Sun Life of Canada (Philippines), Inc., offering life insurance products; Sun Life Asset Management Company, Inc., manager and distributor of the Sun Life Prosperity Funds; and Sun Life Financial Plans, Inc. offering education and pension plans. Visit www.sunlife.com.ph.

Peso weakens ...

From page B1

cial Banking Corp. senior vice president Marcelo Ayes.

"Many have sold off their dollars last week (ahead of the US Federal Reserve's 25-basis-point interest rate cut) so the expected further weakening of the US dollar against regional currencies did not happen," Ayes said.

Asian stocks tumbled yesterday as concerns over the US property downturn reemerged when American financial giant Citigroup disclosed that it may book up to $11 billion in losses from exposure to collateralized debt obligations (CDOs)—structured products whose underlying assets contained US subprime mortgage credit or housing loans given to borrowers with blemished credit histories and little equity.

This was even after the US Fed was forced last week into its biggest liquidity injection since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Strong peso hurting Customs

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS SAID THE APpreciation of the peso has already chopped off more than P10.8 billion from the government's potential revenue collection from import duties.

Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales said the government's revenue collection target for this year assumed that the peso would average at 48 to a dollar. The assumption, however, never materialized, with the peso even breaking into the 43-to-$1 territory last week.

Morales said the BOC, which collects duties and taxes on imports, loses P2.7 billion in potential revenue for every peso appreciation in the local currency against the greenback.

He said that using 44 to a dollar as a conservative estimate of the current value of the peso, the local currency already appreciated by P4 compared with the assumption of 48 to a dollar. This has led to a potential revenue loss of more than P10.8 billion.

The Customs chief said this has made it difficult for the BOC to meet its P228.2-billion revenue collection target for the year. Given the lost potential revenue arising from the peso's appreciation, the more realistic goal for the BOC was P217.4 billion, he said.

The Department of Finance, head agency of the BOC, said, that revenue collection targets set for collecting agencies this year would no longer be revised. The DOF said it was not practical to change targets when the year was nearing its end.

But Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said last week that 2008 revenue collection targets would be reviewed based on the appreciation of the peso and movement of other economic indicators.

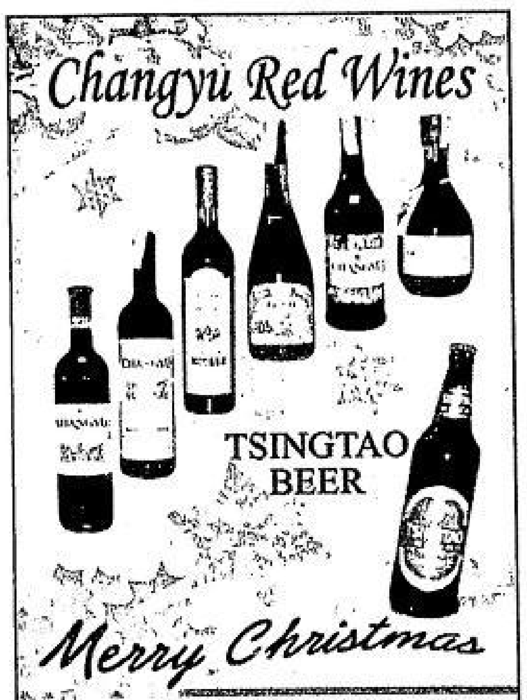
For next year, the BOC is tasked to collect P254 billion. The foreign exchange rate assumption used for next year's revenue collection target is still at 48 to a dollar.

Teves said that should official projections point to a stronger peso, then the revenue targets could be lowered. Teves stressed though that the peso was not the sole consideration in setting new revenue targets.

Volume of imports, economic growth, interest rate movement and inflation, among others, affect the revenue collection of the BOC and the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

For FAST & EASY payroll processing use...
MSi PAYROLL
- the COMPLETE payroll system designed for SME's.
Other MSI Products:
MSI Daily Time Recording (DTR)
MSI Personnel Info.System (PIS)
To all CPA's & Business Consultancy Agents: Refer our products and earn EXTRA income.
FREE DEMO w-in M.M. area.
METROSOFT, INC. LG1 Cityland 9, Dela Rosa Condo, Dela Rosa St, Makati City
Tel.: 892-2798; 892-2808; 894-1043 ; 892-4530/36 ; 894-1525 Fax No.: 892-2795 E-mail: msi@vasia.com

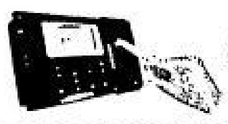
Dare to [illegible]. Be an Inquirer. INQUIRER



JUSTIC CORPORATION
Tel: 241 5237 • 242 2048 to 49

TRADE IN
YOUR OLD
(working or non-working)
TIME RECORDER DEVICE

TO A BRAND NEW FINGERPRINT
TIME RECORDER SYSTEM



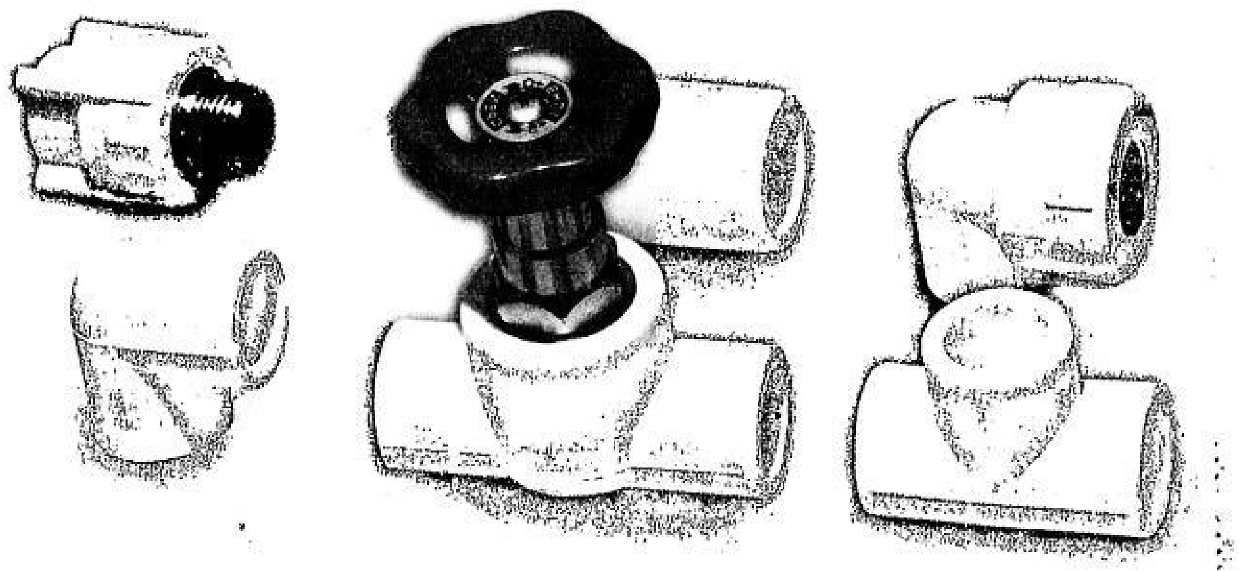
HARDWARE & SOFTWARE included

WE ACCEPT ALL TYPES OF TIME RECORDER DEVICE FOR TRADE-IN...
- Mechanical Bundy Clock
- Electronic Bundy Clock
- Magnetic Swipe Card Reader
- Proximity Card Reader
- Other Brand Fingerprint Reader
- Same Brand Old Model Fingerprint Reader

exclusively distributed by MYSOLUTIONS
367-8188, 365-8468, 365-7313, 364-4069
364-9365, 367-2844, 364-6571, 497-0805
www.mysolutions.com.ph

Conceived by renowned Chinese ingenuity
Developed using advanced German piping technology
Manufactured on a wholly computer-controlled Krauss Maffel production line.

No other pipe has a prouder heritage to prove its quality!



Beware of China-made pipes that do not have the quality of true WEXAN pipes.

WEXAN is the only piping system made in China's most advanced and biggest pipe-making facility.
Exclusively imported by Othmann, Inc. to give you the most excellent performance
in hot and cold water piping systems.

WEXAN PIPELINE®
By WEIXING

OTHMANN INC.
37 Sta. Catalina St., Quezon City Philippines
Tel. Nos. 740 - 1064 • 740 - 1065 • 741 - 5401 • 731 - 5590 Fax: 740 -.0046
E-mail: othmann_polyecowex@yahoo.com.ph

Dealers: Mega Oro Steel Marketing Circumferential Rd., Legaspi City Tel. No. (052) 480-6878 • Phoenix Cebu H. Joaquino St., Mobolo,Cebu City Tel. No. (032) 233-1101 • Phoenix Davao 2nd Cor. 4th St., Ecoland Phase 1, Matina, Davao City Tel. No. (082) 297-6412 • Uni Een Steel Iloilo 414 Valena St., Iloilo City Tel. No. (033) 337-6923 • Advanced Builders Tech. & Sup. Door 1 YLP Bldg. Avenida Veteranos, Tacloban City, Leyte Tel. No. (053) 321-7710 • TNA Builders Naga Sacred Heart St., San Felipe, Zone 1, Naga City Tel. No. (054) 811-5261 • CJC Hi-Tech Essentials Center Door #5 Hervias Bldg., Burgos- Jaena St., Bacolod City Tel. Nos. (034) 433-4606 and (034) 435-3603 • Budget Home Depot Rizal Ave.,Puerto Princesa, Palawan Tel. No. (048) 433-2142

Who do you think is the most important person in Bank of Commerce?

The person we're looking at, of course.
You.

Call us at 812-0000 for all your banking needs.
Member: PDIC. Deposits insured up to P250,000 per depositor.

Looking after you.
Bank of Commerce
www.bankcom.com.ph

Filinvest-led consortium formed for PNOC-EDC bid

SMX Convention Center opens

SM INVESTMENTS CORP. (SMIC), THE FLAGship company of tycoon Henry Sy, yesterday opened its P1.8-billion SMX Convention Center at the Mall of Asia complex in Pasay City.

The convention center is touted as the country's largest venue for exhibits, trade shows, conventions and banquets.

The three-story structure has a gross floor area of 46,647 square meters and a leasable area of 34,743 sq.m. Its basement parking can accommodate up to 400 cars.

"With this facility, SM is offering a unique and superior venue for major domestic and international events. SMX is one of the many buildings we are developing to transform the Mall of Asia Complex into a premier business and tourism destination in the Philippines," SMIC president Harley Sy said.

The first level holds the main lobby, the exhibition area, commercial shops, and a delivery bay for up to 15 cargo trucks.

The main lobby will feature a pre-function area of 1,879 sq.m. with a concierge, electronic billboard monitors, and VIP (very important person) and press rooms.

The exhibition area has a floor space of 9,130 sq.m. that can seat more than 5,000 people. The area can be divided into four halls for smaller exhibits or shows.

The second floor is a commercial strip with shops and has a pedestrian bridgeway leading to Mall of Asia.

Level three is the convention center with a floor space of 7,100 sq.m., which can be divided into five function rooms.

Within the Mall of Asia Complex, SMIC will also inaugurate soon OneE-com Center, an office building suited to the needs of business process outsourcing companies.

Elizabeth S. Lacson

Deal signed last Nov. 1

By Abigail L. Ho

FILINVEST DEVELOPMENT Corp., the listed firm of the Gotianun family, has tied up with International Power Plc and International Power Masinloc Holdings Inc. to strengthen its bid for the government's remaining 60-percent stake in PNOC Energy Development Corp.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Filinvest corporate information officer Abner Gener Jr. said the parties involved signed a memorandum of understanding last Nov. 1.

International Power Plc is a UK-based independent power generation company with interests in more than 40 power stations and related businesses worldwide.

Filinvest was among the companies that passed the initial screening of the Philippine National Oil Co. Privatization Committee for the PNOC-EDC stake bidding. The others include Aboitiz Power Corp., Ashmore Group, Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc., Avenue Capital Group, First Gen Corp., Geyser Green Energy, International Power, One Energy Ltd., Reykjavik Energy, San Miguel Energy Corp., Marubeni Corp. and Sumitomo Corp.

Those that made the initial cut had until 7 p.m. of Oct. 26 to submit the requirements for the final pre-qualification. However, the final list of pre-qualified bidders has yet to be released.

The pre-qualified bidders were given until 9 a.m. of Nov. 21 to turn in their bids.

The notice of award would be issued to the winning bidder by Nov. 22, with the full payment of the bid price to be remitted by Nov. 30, the scheduled closing date of the transaction.

"We are encouraged by the high level of interest and the quality of their due diligence efforts. Most of the bidding groups have already hired their own financial advisors, legal, technical and accounting consultants for this important endeavor," PNOC president and Privacom chair Antonio Cailao had earlier said.

PNOC's financial advisers, Development Bank of the Philippines and ING, had briefed the potential bidders on the terms of a proposed staple financing facility that would be made available to the bidders.

According to PNOC, arranging staple financing in acquisition transactions has become a common international practice.

Because financing for an acquisition is already in place, the seller can launch and expedite the bidding process, and receive more bids. This likewise gives buyers added security, knowing that they have additional financial backing.

Stocks

From page B1

results, dealers said.

Investors refrained from making aggressive moves as they weighed a shaky outlook for the US economy and inflation concerns amid high oil prices, they said.

The composite index added 15.84 points to 3,774.81. It moved between 3,739.22 and 3,778.47. A total of 3.1 billion shares worth P5.8 billion were traded.

Decliners outnumbered gainers 58 to 41, while 56 stocks ended flat.

"Trading was very volatile. The market initially reacted to the big drop of the Dow last Thursday, but sentiment improved on hopes that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas will follow the lead of the Fed and cut its own interest rates," said Jose Vistan of of AB Capital Securities.

Philippine financial markets were closed last Thursday and Friday.

The Federal Reserve cut its benchmark rate by a quarter point last Wednesday but said inflation remained a concern, which some in the market took as a signal that it may be done cutting interest rates.

Last week's cut followed a heftier half-point reduction in US interest rates in September which prompted the Bangko Sentral to lower its overnight rates by a quarter-percentage point on Oct. 4.

The central bank's monetary board will meet next on Nov. 15 to decide on interest rates.

Expectations for more upbeat third-quarter earnings also buoyed the market, Vistan said. *AFP*

ONE GLOBAL FILIPIN
Throug
PUBLI VAT R7

INVESTING IN RP CAPITAL MARKET
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) officer in charge Nestor A. Espenilla Jr. (right) discusses the BSP's rules on bank marketing of financial derivatives during a session on "Investing in the Philippine Capital and Financial Market" at the 33rd Philippine Business Conference. With him in the panel are Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Fe B. Barin and Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines president Abelardo Cortez.

BPO firms draw up roadmap ...

From page B1

the Philippines has launched it," Hernandez said.

Speaking at the sidelines of the launching, he said the local BPO sector was facing a shortfall in the supply of services rather than the demand for it.

Hernandez said one of the main questions for the sector was how to absorb growing demand and that the roadmap sought to unravel this as it aimed to double to 10 percent the country's share of the global O&O market by 2010, which is estimated to be worth $130 billion.

BPA/P chief executive Oscar Sañez said the roadmap aimed to realize a 41-percent growth in revenues to $13 billion in 2010 from $3.3 billion in 2006.

"The roadmap strives at a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the country to become a global O&O player, which if successful would provide enormous benefits," Sañez said.

He said the BPO labor force could grow to 900,000 from the current 235,000 by 2010, which means the industry needed to recruit a million workers to offset attrition and result to a net of 600,000 new jobs.

Sañez said the sector was expected to represent $6.7 billion in salaries by 2010, which would be passed on to other industries and thus spur the creation and support for between 1.2 million and 1.5 million indirect jobs.

"Of the total, some $2 billion would be spent on food, representing 1 billion Big Macs and 1.7 billion ChickenJoy meals," he said, referring to products of popular fast food chains McDonalds and Jollibee.

He added that the amount would translate to $1.34 billion in taxes that could build a million classrooms or support 7 billion days of nutrition program.

CURRENCIES

November 5, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.689037	1.000000	43.7300
Japan	Yen	0.005998	0.008705	0.3807
United Kingdom	Pound	1.439675	2.089400	91.3695
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.088814	0.128896	5.6366
Switzerland	Franc	0.597448	0.867077	37.9173
Canada	Dollar	0.737570	1.070435	46.8101
Singapore	Dollar	0.475822	0.690560	30.1982
Australia	Dollar	0.631218	0.916086	40.0604
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.828656	2.653928	116.0563
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.184230	0.267373	11.6922
Brunei	Dollar	0.474185	0.688184	30.0943
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000076	0.000110	0.0048
Thailand	Baht	0.021771	0.031596	1.3817
UAE	Dirham	0.187697	0.272405	11.9123
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.451300	63.4653
Korea	Won	0.000760	0.001103	0.0482
China	Yuan**	0.092416	0.134124	5.8652
Denmark	Kroner	0.134164	0.194712	8.5148
India	Rupee	0.017555	0.025478	1.1142
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.206298	0.299401	13.0928
New Zealand	Dollar	0.523943	0.760398	33.2522
Sweden	Kroner	0.108081	0.156858	6.8594
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.021276	0.030878	1.3503

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Nov. 2, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of Nov. 2, 2007

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of November 5, 2007)

52-WKS HIGH	52-WKS LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	6.7	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	8.3	8.4	8.3	8.4	28,000
73	43	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	61.5	61.5	61	61.5	1,530,700
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	65.5	68	65	68	2,002,800
748	540	China Banking Corp.	715	715	710	715	1,760
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	300
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	510,000
75.5	47.5	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company	62	63	62	62.5	5,393,000
65.5	35	Philippine National Bank	48.5	48.5	48	48	278,400
68	43	Philippine Savings Bank	62	62	62	62	300
39.57	18.04	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	29	29	28	28.5	673,700
90	61	Security Bank Corp.	76.5	76.5	76.5	76.5	201,100
66	45.99	Union Bank of the Philippines	50	50	49.5	50	4,600
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	2.04	2.14	2.02	2.12	6,407,000
16.25	4.45	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	14.5	14.5	13.75	13.75	644,900
1.6	0.5	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	280,000
42.5	29	First Metro Investment Corp.	42.5	42.5	42.5	42.5	5,000
5.9	4.9	I-Remit Inc.	5.4	5.4	5.2	5.2	619,000
1,970.00	1,580.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,960.00	1,970.00	1,960.00	1,970.00	110
5	2.95	Nat'l Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.45	3.45	3.4	3.4	1,356,000
3.1	1.22	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	1.94	1.94	1.94	1.94	76,000
1,390.00	241	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc.	1,300.00	1,305.00	1,290.00	1,290.00	21,050
2,470.00	1,970.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,470.00	2,470.00	2,470.00	2,470.00	130
1.94	1.3	iVantage Corp	1.58	1.62	1.58	1.62	960,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.6	5,267,000
70.5	49	First Gen Corp.	60	60	59.5	60	2,264,500
92	51	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	86	86	84	84	496,900
17.5	8.8	Manila Water Company Inc.	17	17	16.5	16.75	7,699,600
105.45	23.64	Manila Electric Company	82	86	82	84	943,500
7.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	7.6	7.6	7.4	7.5	16,377,000
7.4	3.9	Petron Corp.	7.1	7.4	7.1	7.2	12,639,000
14.75	6.6	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	44,000
2.3	1	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp.	1.96	1.96	1.84	1.86	10,697,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	3.2	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	32,000
2.95	1.66	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	1.82	1.9	1.82	1.82	789,000
61	39	Jollibee Foods Corp.	51	51.5	50.5	51	1,320,400
3.7	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.7	2.75	2.7	2.75	15,000
80	57.5	San Miguel Corp. A	58.5	58.5	57.5	58.5	31,400
88	59.5	San Miguel Corp. B	62	62	61	61	292,600
6.5	3	Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5,000
21.75	13.75	Universal Robina Corp.	15	15	14.75	14.75	4,567,600
0.55	0.26	Vitarich Corp	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	70,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	2.64	EEI Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.7	285,000
9.2	4.95	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2	200,000
7	2.6	Republic Cement Corp.	4.4	4.6	4.4	4.6	218,000
2	0.54	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc	1.1	1.18	1.1	1.14	8,961,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.75	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.55	4.65	4.55	4.65	587,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	0.17	Picop Resources Inc	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.38	3,590,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	2.7	A. Soriano Corp.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	162,000
0.17	0.044	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.17	0.14	0.155	744,500,000
1.28	0.235	APC Group Inc.	0.71	0.73	0.71	0.72	780,000
3.65	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. A	3	3	2.8	2.8	174,000
0.018	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	51,000,000
0.019	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. B	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	100,000
9.7	5.6	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.2	778,000
0.021	0.0075	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	141,400,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.3	5.5	5.3	5.4	20,511,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.44	2.44	2.36	2.38	1,508,000
645	397.92	Ayala Corp.	620	645	610	645	657,270
5.8	1.42	Benpres Holdings Corp.	4.55	4.6	4.3	4.55	6,515,000
12	4.7	DMCI Holdings Inc.	11.75	11.75	10.75	11	1,736,400
6.9	1.08	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	4.3	4.3	4.25	4.3	40,000
2.5	0.8	F and J Prince Holdings Corp. A	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	50,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	10,000
14.5	7.8	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	138,000
0.8	0.22	MEDCO Holdings Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	10,000
0.95	0.28	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	70,000
11.5	1.48	Minerales Industrias Corp.	6.8	7	6.7	6.7	2,258,000
8.5	2.95	PAL Holdings Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	185,000
0.28	0.016	Pacifica Inc. A	0.215	0.23	0.21	0.22	454,420,000
0.75	0.185	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	200,000
2.1	1.2	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	50,000
452.5	268.53	SM Investments Corp.	385	395	385	387.5	1,092,210
2.1	1.08	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	25,000
0.73	0.13	Sinophil Corp.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	580,000
1.06	0.61	Solid Group Inc.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	100,000
2	0.9	South China Resources Inc.	1.54	1.62	1.52	1.52	103,000
23	1	TKC Steel Corp.	16	16	15	15.25	5,500
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	740,000
1.1	0.26	Zeus Holdings Inc	0.66	0.68	0.66	0.68	400,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	1	A Brown Company Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.44	1.44	116,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc.	7.7	7.8	7.6	7.7	28,000
19.25	11.88	Ayala Land Inc.	14.75	15	14.25	15	39,358,000
1.88	1	Belle Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.32	1.36	1,063,000
4.7	2.9	Cebu Holdings Inc.	4	4.2	4	4.15	71,000
0.86	0.39	Crown Equities Inc.	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	60,000
0.99	0.52	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.79	0.81	0.78	0.8	32,060,000
0.47	0.055	Ever Gotesco Res. and Hold'gs Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	2,020,000
1.48	0.61	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.08	1.1	1.06	1.06	1,416,000
2.44	1.26	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.82	1.84	1.78	1.84	70,101,000
1.12	0.31	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.6	0.61	0.6	0.61	350,000
4.6	1.85	Megaworld Corp.	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.45	35,436,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.85	5.1	4.85	5	339,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	320,000
0.87	0.32	Phil. Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.49	0.49	2,590,000
23	14.5	Robinson Land Corp.	20.5	21.25	20.5	21.25	1,464,800
5.9	1.63	SM Development Corp.	4.45	4.5	4.2	4.5	607,000
13.5	7.44	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	12	12	11.75	11.75	14,421,000
3.25	1.34	Shang Properties Inc.	2.36	2.36	2.36	2.36	200,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.61	0.61	360,000
0.49	0.09	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.27	2,820,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.2	5.4	9,021,000
4.5	0.38	Zipporah Realty Holdings Inc	3.05	3.35	3.05	3.25	11,032,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	18.75	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	34.5	34.5	34	34	43,400
11.75	8	GMA Network Inc	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.5	179,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	12,000
1,745.00	1,180.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,700.00	1,740.00	1,700.00	1,735.00	57,390
3,285.00	2,250.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,990.00	3,005.00	2,975.00	2,975.00	343,350
8.1	5.2	Pilipino Telephone Corp	7.4	7.6	7.4	7.6	1,213,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.21	2,570,000
12	2.1	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	9.4	9.4	9	9	40,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	8.9	9.1	8.9	9.1	1,832,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.042	0.045	0.041	0.043	152,100,000
29.5	8.5	Imperial Resources Inc. A	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	400
0.32	0.044	Island Info and Technology Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.185	0.185	4,900,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.3	1.36	1.3	1.34	332,000
0.0725	0.03	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.0525	0.055	0.0525	0.055	8,300,000
5.8	1.34	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc.	3.15	3.3	3.1	3.1	1,867,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
2.14	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	6,000
42.5	18.5	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	41.5	42	41	42	2,020,900
2.16	0.93	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	2	2	2	2	48,000
2.04	1.04	Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	4,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	10,000
0.98	0.32	Premiere Ent. Productions Inc.	0.74	0.88	0.74	0.87	23,080,000
1.2	0.54	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.82	0.84	0.82	0.83	1,190,000
		EDUCATION					
3.7	2.6	iPeople Inc	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	38,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	2	Macroasia Corp.	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.2	285,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	12	12	11.75	12	16,800
30	10.5	Paxys Inc	11	11.25	10.75	10.75	159,700
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	152,100,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Company Inc. A	5.6	5.8	5.6	5.8	469,000
7.7	3.85	Apex Mining Company Inc. B	5.7	5.9	5.7	5.9	65,000
21.25	7.8	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	15.75	15.75	15.5	15.75	11,154,000
14.25	8.9	Benguet Corp. A	13	13	13	13	3,000
11.5	1.8	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	10.5	11	10	10	2,128,700
3.1	0.6	GEOGRACE Res. Philippines Inc.	2.5	2.55	2.44	2.46	56,935,000
0.39	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. A	0.35	0.36	0.34	0.35	26,170,000
0.42	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. B	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.38	7,930,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. A	0.026	0.027	0.026	0.026	33,700,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. B	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	49,500,000
30	2	NIHAO Minerals Res. Int'l Inc.	24.5	25	23.5	23.75	2,391,900
0.021	0.0079	Omico Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.013	56,800,000
11	3.5	Philex Mining Corp.	10.75	11	10.5	10.75	8,173,600
46.5	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	44.5	44.5	44	44	135,100
1.36	0.47	United Paragon Mining Corp.	0.87	0.89	0.85	0.89	720,000
1.8	0.68	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.26	1.28	1.24	1.28	1,687,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	1,760,000
0.029	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. A	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	186,700,000
0.03	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. B	0.027	0.028	0.027	0.028	175,500,000
13.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	12	12.25	12	12	68,800
0.032	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.031	0.031	0.03	0.03	326,100,000

AVERAGES				VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	961.98	UP	10.40	20,993,850	675,508,390.00
Industrial	4,678.84	DOWN	16.84	77,392,500	825,690,310.00
Holding Firms	2,267.59	UP	42.00	1,430,292,880	1,252,307,425.00
Property	1,680.04	DOWN	2.30	225,253,800	1,188,985,140.00
Service	1,825.91	DOWN	8.07	200,727,257	1,513,628,767.66
Mining & Oil	8,582.05	UP	42.19	1,100,191,100	534,408,065.00
All Shares Index	2,354.33	UP	4.50		
PSEi	3,774.81	UP	15.84		
		GRAND TOTALS		3,054,851,387	5,990,528,097.66

COMPILED BY SCHATZI QUODALA, INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, PSE

BSP readies next round of forex lib

Further easing of rules on OTCs, overseas investments considered

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS IS finalizing its next round of foreign exchange liberalization which aims to reduce business costs by relaxing restrictions on overseas investments and over-the-counter purchases of US dollars.

"In addition to the streamlining of documentation and reporting requirements, there are some discussions on the merits of further relaxing the regulations on OTC purchases of residents and outward investments," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

Earlier this year, the BSP doubled the maximum amount that local companies can invest overseas using foreign exchange obtained from the banking system to $12 million from $6 million per year without requiring approval from the BSP's policy-making Monetary Board. The original proposal, however, was to raise the limit to $20 million.

Aside from a possible increase in the outward investment limit, the BSP is also considering relaxing the restrictions on the overseas investments of professionally managed collective funds such as unit investment trust funds (UITFs), mutual funds and pension funds, which were designed for people who have neither the time nor the expertise to manage their own funds.

Mutual funds are incorporated entities governed by the Securities and Exchange Commission while UITFs are products handled by banks and which are under the supervision of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The BSP started easing the restrictions on capital outflows in April this year to help address the strong influx of foreign money pumped in by overseas Filipino workers and foreign investors' placements in the local stock, bond and money markets.

Last April, the BSP also raised the limit on foreign exchange that clients can buy from banks without tedious documentation requirements and for non-commercial purposes, such as overseas travel, to $10,000 from only $5,000.

The "no-splitting" restriction and notarization requirement for applications to purchase foreign exchange were also scrapped.

The biggest component of the first wave of liberalization implemented last April was the increase in the banks' allowable foreign currency purchases as a share of unencumbered capital—known as the overbought limit—from 2.5 percent or $5 million, whichever is lower, to a pre-Asian crisis level of 20 percent or $50 million, whichever is lower. This was matched by a 20 percent or $50-million limit on the oversold position or the amount of dollars the banks are allowed to sell to the open market.

Extension of hybrid rice program pushed

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE is pushing for the continued implementation of the hybrid rice commercialization program, saying it addresses the gap between production and consumption, as well as the welfare of rice farmers.

"For the previous 12 seasons from 2001-2007, hybrid rice varieties have recorded a yield advantage of 33 percent more than those of inbred certified seeds," Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap said.

This gives farmers extra produce, which they can use for personal consumption or sell for additional income.

For this reason, the DA, through the Ginintuang Masaganang Ani rice program, is currently working not only the extension of the program but also the expansion of the areas planted to hybrid rice.

Despite criticisms from several groups, GMA program director Frisco Malabanan said in an interview that the department was planning to extend the program until 2010 due to its contribution to Philippine agriculture.

Since the start of the HRCP in 2001, both the national average yield and the areas planted to hybrid rice have significantly increased.

The program has likewise saved the country P13.9 billion in potential rice import bill.

For 2008, the GMA rice program targets 500,000 hectares to be planted to hybrid rice and for 2010, at least 600,000 hectares, he said.

According to Malabanan, planting hybrid rice enabled farmers to harvest as much as 170 to 240 cavans a hectare, higher than the usual harvest of 100 to 120 cavans a hectare.

For HRCP's activities in 2008, Malabanan said the department had proposed a budget of P500 million.

NFA exceeds rice distribution targets

THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY has surpassed its rice distribution targets for May to October by 4.2 million bags due mainly to its lower prices.

NFA Public Affairs Director Rex Estoperez said in an interview that prices of commercial rice were high during the period due largely to the delay in the main crop harvesting schedule. This prompted consumers to turn to NFA for their requirements.

For May to October, the NFA released to the local market 22.8 million bags, higher than its target of 18.6 million bags.

The bulk of the stocks released consisted of imported rice, Estoperez said.

The volume of rice sold by the NFA in May reached 3.4 million bags (as against the target of 1.6 million bags); June, 3.4 million bags (3.2 million bags); July, 4.7 million bags (4.2 million bags); August, 4.7 million bags (4.3 million bags); September, 3.8 million bags (3.1 million bags), and October, 2.8 million bags (2.2 million bags).

The prolonged dry spell that hit the country pushed back the planting schedule of rice farmers by at least a month.

Unlike commercial rice prices which fluctuate depending on the source of supply and the transport cost, NFA rice is uniformly priced nationwide.

Amy R. Remo

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
HANSHIN AIR CARGO (PHILS.) CO. LTD. Unit 107 2/F JJM II Bldg., 3963 Ninoy Aquino Ave., Parañaque City	Hirofumi Utsumi Japanese	General Manager and Chief Representative
HEALTHSCOPE MEDICAL SOLUTIONS CORP. U-804 West Tower, PSEC Exchange Rd., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Alan Richard Jackson Australian	Executive Director
YUAN FEI TRADING CO. LTD. 927-929 Dos Castillas St., Sampaloc, Manila	Zhengxian Shi Chinese	Supervisor
YUNWA TRADING CO. LTD. 1190 Mayhaligue St., Tondo, Manila	Jiansheng Li Chinese	Technical Supervisor
E2PARK INC. U-502 5/F Centerpoint Bldg., Garnet Rd., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Chanheum Park Korean	General Manager
KOREAN LANGUAGE CULTURE (KLC) TRAINING CENTER INC. 904 Parc House II Condominium, 21 EDSA Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati City	Donghun Kim Korean	Korean Language Teacher
WOORI RESTAURANT 2654-B. Leveriza St., Malate, Manila	Jaesun Kim Korean	General Manager
NEURON GLOBAL INC. 2/F Tesoro Bldg., 1016 Arnaiz Ave., Makati City	Paul James Colahan American	Operations Manager
ACCENTURE, INC. MSE Bldg., Ayala Ave., Makati City	Wiradhi Sentosa Indonesian	Project Manager
MANILA CHRISTIAN LITERATURE BOOKSTORE 77 Aguirre Ave., BF Homes, Parañaque City	Young Hoo Lee (w/o Kim) Korean	Consultant
WESTERN UNION SERVICES (PHILIPPINES) INC. 1024 Global Trade Center, EDSA, Quezon City	William Frederick Rikh Australian	Regional Operations Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC-Regional Director

(PDI-November 6, 2007)

SECURITY BANK

Security Bank Centre
6776 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
(632) 867-6788

BALANCE SHEET

(Head Office and Branches)
As of September 30, 2007

ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Items		1,123,036,124
Due from Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas		6,652,968,639
Due from Other Banks		2,995,411,131
Financial Assets at Fair Value through Profit or Loss		15,994,485,460
Available-for-Sale Financial Assets-Net		34,908,906,715
Held-to-Maturity Financial Assets-Net		1,108,537,494
Unquoted Debt Securities Classified as Loans-Net		56,388,834
Investment in Non-Marketable Equity Security-Net		15,627,279
Loans and Receivables-Net		
Interbank Loans Receivable		12,234,674,653
Loans and Receivables-Others		39,038,957,687
Loans and Receivables Arising from RA/CA/PR/SLB		2,251,000,000
Other Financial Assets		1,601,928,947
Equity Investment in Subsidiaries, Associates, and Joint Ventures-Net		2,327,515,358
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment-Net		1,327,324,725
Real and Other Properties Acquired-Net		1,213,741,889
Other Assets-Net		1,348,698,754
TOTAL ASSETS		P 124,199,203,689
LIABILITIES		
Financial Liabilities at Fair Value through Profit or Loss		129,603,182
Deposit Liabilities		84,327,560,524
Due to Other Banks		17,739,333
Bills Payable		
BSP (Rediscounting and Other Advances)		109,248,941
Interbank Loans Payable		6,421,253,603
Other Deposit Substitute		8,011,094,356
Unsecured Subordinated Debt-Net		2,997,088,429
Due to Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas		32,733,736
Other Financial Liabilities		3,429,481,677
Other Liabilities		6,252,752,186
TOTAL LIABILITIES		P 111,728,555,967
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Capital Stock		4,981,626,239
Other Capital Accounts		3,142,548,706
Retained Earnings		4,346,472,777
TOTAL STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		P 12,470,647,722
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		P 124,199,203,689
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Performance Standby Letters of Credit		4,003,004,165
Commercial Letters of Credit		2,268,767,932
Trade Related Guarantees		753,256,754
Commitments		62,181,335
Spot Foreign Exchange Contracts		8,006,129,150
Trust Department Accounts		12,739,169,276
Trust and Agency Accounts	8,655,677,845	
Unit Investment Trust Fund (UITF)	2,164,036,351	
Other Trust and Fiduciary Accounts	1,919,455,080	
Derivatives		91,726,711,989
Others		804,216,019
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		P 120,363,436,620

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Compliance with Magna Carta Law:

	Small Enterprises	Medium Enterprises
Prescribed Ratio of Compliance:	6%	2%
Actual Compliance	6.80%	13.67%

2 Non-Performing Loans (NPLs)	P 1,492,126,069
3. Ratio of Non-Performing Loans to Total Loan Portfolio (NPL to TLP)	2.66%
4 Classified Loans and Other Risk Assets	9,990,000,000
5 General provision for loan losses	632,823,463
6 Specific provision for loan losses	1,785,048,096
7 Return on Equity (ROE)	19.96%
8 DOSRI Loans and Receivables	584,605,361
9 Ratio of DOSRI Loans and Receivables to Total Loan Portfolio (TLP)	1.04%
10 Past due DOSRI loans and receivables	0.00
11 Ratio of Past Due DOSRI Loans and Receivables to Total Loan Portfolio (TLP)	0.00
12. Capital Adequacy Ratio (Solo Basis)	
Tier 1 (Solo Basis)	11.72%
Total (Solo Basis)	14.99%

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
CITY OF MAKATI)s.s

We, Alberto S. Villarosa and Joselito E. Mape of the above mentioned Bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(SGD.) JOSELITO E. MAPE
First Vice President

(SGD.) ALBERTO S. VILLAROSA
President & CEO

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME this 24th day of October, 2007 at City of Makati, affiant exhibiting to me their Residence Certificate No. 17705087, issued at City of Makati on February 22 2007 and Residence Certificate No. 17705085, issued at City of Makati on February 22, 2007.

(SGD.) FELIPE I. ILEDAN, JR.
NOTARY PUBLIC
Until Dec 31, 2008
PTR No. 5316420
01-02-2007, Manila

Doc. No. 183
Page No. 38
Book No. XXXIX
Series of 2007

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

(Bank and Financial Subsidiaries)
As of September 30, 2007

ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Items		P 1,123,036,124
Due from Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas		6,652,968,639
Due from Other Banks		3,123,146,676
Financial Assets at Fair Value through Profit or Loss		16,031,103,058
Available-for-Sale Financial Assets-Net		35,113,813,373
Held-to-Maturity Financial Assets-Net		1,108,537,494
Unquoted Debt Securities Classified as Loans-Net		56,388,834
Investment in Non-Marketable Equity Security-Net		15,650,079
Loans and Receivables-Net:		
Interbank Loans Receivable		12,234,674,653
Loans and Receivables-Others		40,500,617,797
Loans and Receivables Arising from RA/CA/PR/SLB		2,251,000,000
Other Financial Assets		1,604,427,686
Equity Investment in Subsidiaries, Associates, and Joint Ventures-Net		905,627,521
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment-Net		1,353,915,968
Real and Other Properties Acquired-Net		1,276,188,500
Other Assets-Net		1,471,544,128
TOTAL ASSETS		P 124,822,640,530
LIABILITIES		
Financial Liabilities at Fair Value through Profit or Loss		P 129,603,182
Deposit Liabilities		84,221,461,172
Due to Other Banks		17,739,333
Bills Payable:		
BSP (Rediscounting and Other Advances)		109,248,941
Interbank Loans Payable		6,421,253,603
Other Deposit Substitute		7,961,973,602
Unsecured Subordinated Debt-Net		2,997,088,429
Due to Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas		32,733,736
Other Financial Liabilities		3,445,384,641
Other Liabilities		7,015,506,169
TOTAL LIABILITIES		P 112,351,992,808
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Capital Stock		P 4,981,626,239
Other Capital Accounts		3,142,548,706
Retained Earnings		4,346,472,777
TOTAL STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		P 12,470,647,722
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		P 124,822,640,530
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Performance Standby Letters of Credit		P 4,003,004,165
Commercial Letters of Credit		2,268,767,932
Trade Related Guarantees		753,256,754
Commitments		62,181,335
Spot Foreign Exchange Contracts		8,006,129,150
Trust Department Accounts		12,739,169,276
Trust and Agency Accounts	8,655,677,845	
Unit Investment Trust Fund (UITF)	2,164,036,351	
Other Trust and Fiduciary Accounts	1,919,455,080	
Derivatives		91,726,711,989
Others		804,216,019
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		P 120,363,436,620

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. List of Bank's Financial Subsidiaries:
   - a) Security Finance, Inc.
   - b) SB Cards Corporation
   - c) SB Forex, Incorporated
   - d) SB Capital Investment Corp.
   - e) Landlink Property Investments (SPV-AMC), Inc.

2. Capital Adequacy Ratio (Consolidated Basis)	
Tier 1 (Consolidated Basis)	12.12%
Total (Consolidated Basis)	16.20%

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
CITY OF MAKATI)s.s

We, Alberto S. Villarosa and Joselito E Mape of the above mentioned Bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(SGD.) JOSELITO E. MAPE
First Vice President

(SGD.) ALBERTO S. VILLAROSA
President & CEO

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME this 24th day of October, 2007 at City of Makati, affiants exhibiting to me their Residence Certificate No. 17705087, issued at City of Makati on February 22, 2007 and Residence Certificate No 17705085, issued at City of Makati on February 22, 2007.

(SGD.) FELIPE I. ILEDAN, JR.
NOTARY PUBLIC
Until Dec 31, 2008
PTR No. 5316420
01-02-2007, Manila

Doc. No. 184
Page No 38
Book No. XXXIX
Series of 2007

Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Maximum Deposit Insurance for Each Depositor P250,000.00.

SECURE your office from FRAUD & THEFT!
Timekeeping & Access Control Devices
U.are.U
with Payroll Software for 50 employees.
• With DTR Software
• Unlimited Fingerprints
P 7,900
OA-101
with Payroll Software for 50 employees.
• With DTR Software
• 512 Fingerprints Capacity
P 9,900
OA-180
with Payroll Software for 50 employees.
• With 4 AA Back-up Battery
• 512 Fingerprint Capacity
• TCP/IP or USB Connection for Downloading
P 16,500
AV-100
with Payroll Software for 50 employees.
• With Built-in Back-Up Battery
• Built-in USB or TCP/IP slot
• Access Control Ready
• 1,760 Fingerprints Capacity
P 19,000
OA-200
with Payroll Software for 50 employees.
• RS 485 & TCP/IP Connection
• Access Control Ready
• 2K Fingerprints, 50K transactions
• Fingerprint & Proximity Card Verification
P 24,000
with Payroll Software for 50 employees.
FE900
Fingerprint T&A Access Control Kiosk
SPECIAL OFFER!
P23,999
Buy 3 EVOLVE All-in-One PC, and get a FREE OA101 Fingerprint T&A Reader.
LCD Monitor
DVD ROM/ 4-in-1 card reader
Speakers
CPU
evolve ALL-IN-ONE LCD PC!
*max of 1 unit per company
MUSTARD Seed SYSTEMS CORPORATION
www.mseedsystems.com
FOR SALES INQUIRIES CONTACT:
533-1562 | 533-3612 | 533-2989 | 533-8040
534-1529 | 533-4095 | 535-0787
sales@mseedsystems.com

US worries weigh on stocks

International investors seek safety of gov't bonds, driving yields lower

HONG KONG—ASIAN STOCKS eased on Monday with financial shares extending their slide as persistent credit worries offset a positive US employment report, which showed twice as many jobs as expected were added last month.

Investors scurried to the relative safety of government bonds, driving yields lower, and pinned the dollar near a record low versus the euro on worries about losses at big US financial firms.

US banking giant Citigroup said it may suffer an $11 billion write-down for subprime losses and that its chief executive Charles Prince had resigned *(see story below)*.

Both gold and oil took a breather after their recent surges, with bullion trading near $800 an ounce, just off Friday's peak of $807.70.

At 0223 GMT, Tokyo's Nikkei average had fallen 0.9 percent while MSCI's measure of other Asia Pacific stocks declined 0.4 percent.

The MSCI index slipped 0.7 percent last week after losing grip of a record high set on Nov. 1, following a widely expected US interest rate cut.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index was among the biggest losers in the region, shedding nearly one percent.

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao told reporters during a trip to Uzbekistan that China needed new laws to regulate the outflow of funds to avoid a sudden shock to its stock market.

Investors continued to sell financials on worries that banks may face further losses from exposure to US subprime mortgage-related assets.

Japan's top bank Mitsubishi UFJ, Australia's newly listed Macquarie Group and South Korea's Kookmin Bank all fell more than 2 percent.

MSCI's index of financial stocks in the region slid 0.8 percent, outpacing declines in the wider market.

On Wall Street, stocks eked out a small gain on Friday following the jobs data, pushing the blue-chip Dow and technology-laden Nasdaq Composite Index modestly higher.

The US Labor Department said the world's biggest economy added 166,000 nonfarm jobs in October.

The dollar wallowed near record lows versus the euro and a basket of currencies despite the upbeat jobs data as investors took their cue from losses in major US financial firms, struggling from the credit market problems. *Reuters*

Oil prices ease up in Asian trade

SINGAPORE—OIL YESTERDAY eased in Asian trade from closing record highs ahead of a crucial US-Turkey meeting aimed at resolving a crisis over Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq, dealers said.

New York's main contract, light sweet crude for December delivery, was off 95 cents at 94.98 dollars a barrel from its closing record high of 95.93 in US trade Friday.

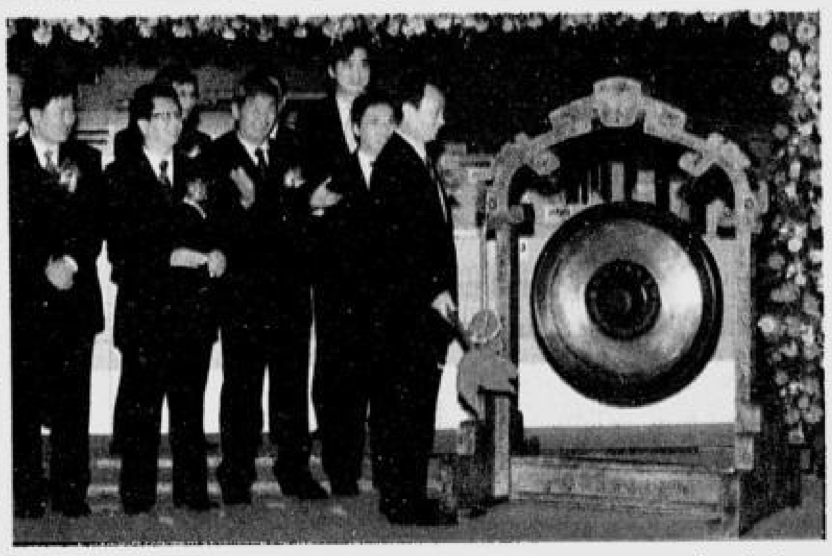
Brent North Sea crude for December delivery dropped 59 cents to 91.49 dollars.

Tensions between Turkey and Kurdish rebels were a major driver behind the spike in oil prices as traders were concerned supplies from the oil-rich Middle East will be disrupted if the crisis spills over into the region.

Turkey has massed an estimated 100,000 troops along the border and threatened a large-scale incursion against Kurdish rebel bases in northern Iraq, site of several Iraqi oil fields.

Analysts say oil prices remain under pressure to rise further.

"The emerging political crisis in Pakistan, where President (Pervez) Musharraf has declared emergency rule, may add to oil market concerns about instability in the Middle East," the Commonwealth Bank of Australia said in a note. "As well, some weather forecasters were expecting colder weather in the US North-East in the coming week, which might add to the demand for heating oil." *AFP*



JIANG Jiemin (right), chair of PetroChina, hits a gong to start the day's trading at the IPO ceremony in the Shanghai Stock Exchange. PetroChina Co. last week raised $8.94 billion from its IPO in Shanghai. AP

PetroChina becomes world's top-valued firm

SHANGHAI—PETROCHINA YESTERDAY became the world's largest company by market value, worth nearly one trillion dollars—double the value of ExxonMobil—as its shares surged in their debut on the Chinese mainland.

The milestone underlined the ongoing boom on Chinese markets, which have been flooded with ready cash brought by hungry investors who have disregarded warnings that the China bubble is destined to burst eventually.

Asia's top oil and gas producer already traded in Hong Kong and New York, but PetroChina's new shares made their debut Monday on the Shanghai bourse after the largest initial public offering ever on the Chinese mainland.

The shares, priced at 16.7 yuan for the IPO, were trading at 48.62 yuan (6.5 dollars) shortly after the market's opening—an increase of 191 percent that valued the firm at roughly 500 billion dollars more than ExxonMobil.

PetroChina's market capitalization shot past the 1.1-trillion dollar mark in early trade before broader market losses prompted a retreat to about 980 billion dollars.

In terms of earnings, however, PetroChina does not even make it into the top 50 companies of the world, raising a red flag both about the valuation of the firm and the overall sustainability of the Chinese stock boom.

The share price skyrocketed despite a warning from Premier Wen Jiabao that the Chinese government would adopt the necessary policies to rein in the sizzling stock market.

"The government will take measures to prevent asset bubbles and avoid huge fluctuations in the stock market," Wen told reporters, according to the China Daily website.

The Chinese bourse surged 130 percent last year and is up around 110 percent so far this year. Many companies are trading up to 60 times earnings, much higher than many shares on other international bourses. *AFP*

China inflation seen to gather steam again

BEIJING—CHINA IS FAR FROM winning its battle against inflation and prices may resume their rapid climb in coming months after a brief respite, two separate research reports said on Monday.

China's annual consumer price inflation in 2008 could leap to 7.3 percent, its highest level in more than a decade, from 4.7 percent this year, a Tsinghua University economic think tank said in remarks published on Monday.

Goldman Sachs said in a note that inflation would likely top 7 percent in October and November, though the investment bank predicted a cooling-off to 4.5 percent next year.

These forecasts run counter to the recent optimism of officials and bankers that inflation in China had peaked. CPI growth in August rose to a decade-high of 6.5 percent, mainly due to costlier food, especially pork, but the index eased to 6.2 in September.

"We see a notable worsening in growth and inflation trade-off in the near term, when policies in China will be pre-occupied by engineering a landing in inflation risks," Goldman Sachs analyst Hong Liang said.

Liang now expects the central bank to raise interest rates on loans and deposits by 27 basis points twice more before the end of the year. *Reuters*

Citigroup loses up to $11B; exec exits

NEW YORK—CITIGROUP INC. shareholders may have finally gotten what they wanted—the resignation of chair and chief executive Charles Prince—but Wall Street's worries are far from over.

At an emergency meeting of the Citi board Sunday, the largest US bank announced Prince's widely expected departure, but also estimated it would take additional losses of $8 billion to $11 billion.

In the third quarter, it already took a hit of $6.5 billion in asset mark-downs and other credit-related losses.

Citi said former US Treasury Secretary Robert E. Rubin, once cochair of Goldman, Sachs & Co., will be chairing the beleaguered bank. Sir Win Bischoff, chair of Citi Europe and member of the Citi management and operating committees, will serve as interim CEO.

Meanwhile, the company remains entrenched in a mire of off-the-books investment vehicles funded by risky debt. Citigroup may need to take the fall for them if they fail.

And Citigroup's not alone in its debt problems. When borrowers with poor credit stopped paying their mortgages, many banks not only had to take losses on those subprime mortgages, they also saw instruments in their portfolios backed by mortgages plummet in value. No one knows how much longer home prices will keep slumping, and whether problems related to the housing market will start affecting other types of consumer debt.

Also to be seen is how much longer the credit markets will stay tight, and if the currently strong portions of the economy will be hampered by banks' inability to make loans.

"It's the lending practices," said Steven Goldman, chief market strategist at Weeden & Co. in Greenwich, Connecticut. "How much is that going to be impaired?"

Prince joined former Merrill Lynch & Co. CEO Stan O'Neal, who resigned from the investment bank last month, as the highest-profile casualties of the debt crisis that has cost billions at other financial institutions as well.

Prince, 57, became chief executive of Citigroup in October 2003.

Many shareholders criticized him openly for much of his tenure, as Citigroup's stock lagged that of its peers while Prince executed what was called an umbrella model of corporate organization, with several separate lines of business.

Shares closed Friday at $37.73, about 20 percent below where they were when Prince became CEO.

Rubin, 69, after 26 years at Goldman Sachs, became President Bill Clinton's chief economic adviser in 1993 before leading the Treasury Department.

"There's no change of strategy that we see, actually, going forward," Bischoff said, noting that the company still plans to focus on international expansion, at least until a new CEO is chosen. *AP*

St. Luke's launches new body contouring equipment

ST. LUKE'S MEDICAL CENTER IS YET AGAIN at the forefront of technology with its Dermatology Center's (DermCen) newest acquisition, the Tenor RF, the country's most up-to-date equipment for body contouring and skin care management. DermCen is the only dermatology center in the country that uses Tenor RF's newest RF Pixel to refine skin texture and minimize scars.

The US Food and Drug Administration-approved, energy-based Tenor RF has three capabilities: Unipolar RF to re-contour body size; Bipolar RF to tighten skin, and; RF Pixel to refine skin texture and minimize scars.

As introductory promo, patients can avail of a 50 percent discount on their fourth Tenor RF session until Dec. 31. BPI, Security Bank and Diner's Club International cardholders can avail of 3 to 6 month deferred payment plans at zero interest.

St. Luke's DermCen treats skin problems and serious conditions that require utmost medical attention. DermCen provides patients with diagnostic and therapeutic services ranging from acne treatment to skin sculpting to skin cancer management, with state-of-the-art technology in the hands of internationally-trained dermatologists.

Simultaneous with the launch of the new equipment is the launch of its AWSM Centers - Aesthetic Surgery Center, Obesity and Weight Management Center and the Dermatology Center (DermCen). The acronym AWSM, which stands for Aesthetic, Weight and Skin Management, refers to the "awesome" look and feeling patients get after receiving quality care from the three Centers of Excellence.

The heads of the three Centers of Excellence involved in AWSM are Dermatology Center head Dr. Lonabel Encarnacion, Aesthetic Surgery Center head Dr. René Valerio, and Obesity and Weight Management Center head Dr. Luisito Llido.

For inquiries, call the Dermatology Center at 723-0101/0301 ext. 5208, Aesthetic Surgery Center at ext. 5207, and Obesity and Weight Management Center at ext. 5209. The AWSM Centers are located at the 12th floor, Cathedral Heights Building Complex, St. Luke's Medical Center.

Discover your passion for adventure: Introducing Ralph Lauren's newest fragrance Polo Explorer

EXPERIENCE LIVING LIFE WITHOUT limits with Ralph Lauren's newest fragrance, Polo Explorer. Created for the man seeking freedom through exploration, the fragrance combines ruggedness and refinement.

The Polo Explorer fragrance is categorized as a fresh woody amber, and inspired by the journey to explore. Designed to take us on a quest around the world, the fragrance is crafted with an olfactive signature that is as refreshing as it is masculine - a fragrance built for adventure.

Key fragrance elements:

- Crisp Freshness - South African Mandarin and Sicilian Bergamot
- Woody Drydown - Cuban Mahogany and Eco-friendly Sandalwood from the Australian Outback
- Warmth and Long Wear - Argentian Mate and Amber from the North Sea

The Polo Explorer packaging communicates a rugged, but luxurious look. The glass is finished with luxe green enamel. The stopper cap is molded in black grip tight rubber with an orange stripe for a burst of energy and finished with the polo player embossed on top.

The Ralph Lauren Polo Explorer Collection includes Eau de Toilette Spray 2.5 oz., Eau de Toilette Spray 4.2 oz., and a After Shave Splash 4.2 oz.

Polo Explorer will have a pre-event on Nov. 8, Thursday, 3:30 p.m. in Power-Up Silver City, Tiendesitas. To be followed by the main event at 6 p.m., at Hotel Sofitel (formerly Philippine Plaza Hotel). Polo Explorer is available at leading department stores where Ralph Lauren Fragrances are sold.

TAPALLA COMPLETES ADVANCED ETIQUETTE PROGRAM

Valerie C. Tapalla, managing director of the Wilma Cruz Tapalla Academe of Speech 7 Etiquette, has recently finished the 'Advanced Etiquette Program' at the Syndi Seid's School of Advanced Etiquette in California. Shown in photo, Valerie Tapalla (right) and Syndi Seid (left) during their class at the Warwick Hotel in San Francisco.

RCG CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF DELIVERY EXCELLENCE

RCG Information Technology Inc marked 10 years of delivery excellence in the Philippines during its 10th anniversary celebration at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Makati. RCG is a global leader in software development services. The company operates an Offshore Delivery Center (ODC) providing services to global clients through its wholly-owned facility in the Philippines. Photo shows (from left): Leon Castelyn - VP and ODC director of RCG IT Philippines (standing in front of the podium); guest speaker Virgilio Peña - consultant of Bering Point for the E3 Project of Cida; Rob Simplot - CEO of RCG IT; Richard McGonegal - president and managing director of RCG IT Philippines during the ceremonial toast.

Probiotics treatment options can help manage constipation

NEARLY EVERYONE BECOMES CONSTI-pated at one time or another. Older people are more likely than younger people to become constipated. Constipation is a symptom, not a disease. You may be constipated if you are having fewer bowel movements than usual, it takes a long time to pass stools, and they are hard. People often worry a lot about constipation as it could lead to serious bowel and health problems.

Constipation is extremely prevalent in women and children, along with adults ages 65 and older, a result of the digestive condition increasing as people age and experience bowel-related changes. Pregnant women also suffer high incidences of constipation and it is not uncommon that they experience constipation following childbirth or surgery. Constipation is a condition of the digestive system where a person experiences hard feces that are difficult to eject. It may be extremely painful, and in severe cases (fecal impaction) lead to symptoms of bowel obstruction.

Constipation can be caused by a poor diet, i.e. a diet low in fiber or high in fats like cheese, eggs and meats, lack of exercise and age as well as a side-effect of certain medications. Many people seeking treatment for constipation do so without consulting their doctors and instead turn to laxatives which experts say can become habit-forming and experience the so-called rebound effect.

The World Health Organization (WHO) recently acknowledged the benefits of probiotics which are live microorganisms, which when administered confer health benefits on the host. Probiotics are friendly bacteria that help maintain a normal digestive system and a balance of beneficial bacteria. Probiotics are useful to re-balance the gut micro flora as dysbiosis is one of the root causes of constipation. Furthermore, constipation is due to reduced bowel motility so it is important to improve transit through the gut in order to alleviate the problem. An ideal probiotics should offer a combination of multiple strains of Lactobacilli and Bifidobacteria.

These two families of bacteria are the main natural inhabitants of the human gastro-intestinal tract and they exist predominantly in the gut for optimum balance and good health.

The lactic acid produced by the Bifidobacteria probiotics in the colon stimulates the colon to move thereby alleviating constipation. Protexin Probiotics are available in specific formulations: Protexin Restore for babies, Protexin Vitality for children over 4 years and Protexin Balance for adults. Protexin are the only microencapsulated probiotics for better efficacy and provides 7 multi-strains Lactobacilli and Bifidobacteria for digestive wellness. For more information on Protexin Probiotics, contact Prebiotech Healthcare Products Phils at (02)809-9848 or Website: www.protexin.com (e-mail at info@prebiotech.com) or visit your nearest Mercury and Manson Drug outlets nationwide.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

FELECITAS SALAZAR ROSALES

July 10, 1933 – November 3, 2007

Joined her Creator at the age of 74.

Her children **Emily** and **Ben Millare, Linda & Joel Junio, Eduardo & Josie Rosales, Marilou & Marlon Herrera, Levi & Marlon Balbis, Shiela & King Hipol**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel N, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Cremation will be on November 8, 2007 at 12:00 noon.

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven;
A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted...
A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance
Ecclesiastes 3:1-4

VICENTE M. VALER

of Lagonoy, Camarines Sur.

Joined his Creator
on November 1, 2007 at the age of 83.

His loving wife **Milagros**; children **Margarita, Josefina, Domingo** and **Priscilla**; son-in-law **Romeo** and daughter-in-law **Sharyl**; grandchildren **Rommel, Dominic, Monina** and **Vincent**; sisters **Adelina** and **Liberata** (†) and brother **Fidel**; relatives and friends ask for your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Sanctuarium, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will take place on Wednesday, November 7, 2007 at the Manila Memorial Park, Dasmariñas, Cavite after the 7:00 a.m. mass at the Sanctuarium.

ELISEA DE GUZMAN vda. de NEPOMUCENO

of 18 Leongson St., Navotas City

Peacefully joined our Lord
on November 2, 2007 at the age of 87.

Her children **†Pascualito, Dr. Violeta Acorda, Marcos, Nelia Gatbonton, Ma. Concepcion Singson, Pedrito, Conrado II, Conrado III, Ma. Leona, Conrado IV**; together with grandchildren, great-grandchildren, relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Floresco Funeral Homes in Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, November 7, at the Malabon City Cemetery following the 1 p.m. memorial service at the Philippines Independent Church, Concepcion, Malabon City.

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

In loving memory on the
6th Death Anniversary
of

Capt. Jose E. Diaz (PN)

Sept. 28, 1920 – Nov. 6, 2001

Our love will keep your memory alive

Letty, Family and Friends

Special masses will be held in Las Piñas and Canada.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord." *2 Corinthians 5:8*

Angelica Palad Berbano

Born – July 13, 1913
Died – November 03, 2007

Bereaved husband — **†Santiago A. Berbano** and Children **†Recaredo** and **Cynthia Trinidad, Alicia** and **Felix Tamesis, †Fernando** and **Milagros Catral, Benjamin** and **Carmen Perez, †Norma, Victoria, Teresita** and **Ron Belmarch, Maria Socorro**.

Grandchildren and Great-grandchildren request you to pray for her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Sanctuarium, 739 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City, Chapel Cattleya.

Interment will be at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 9:00 a.m. Mass on November 10, 2007.

MIGUEL PAULO ALANO ALONZO

29 October 2007 - 1 November 2007

Beloved firstborn son of
Dr. Carlo Amadeo Capistrano Alonzo and **Hiyasmin Karel Gozun Alano**;
grandson of **Professor Ruperto** and **Zorayda Amelia C. Alonzo**
and **Dr. Bienvenido** and **Dr. Marianette G. Alano**;
nephew of **Laura C. Alonzo. Kevin** and **Cindy. Maya** and **Kyle Alano**;
cousin of **Gabriel** and **Mikhail Barrett**,
William and **Megan Alano.**

We ask our relatives, friends, colleagues and pious readers to offer masses in gratitude for Miguel's loving presence in our lives and the eternal repose of his soul. Please pray for his parents and all who love and miss him.

Miguel's mortal remains were viewed at the Coney Island Memorial Chapel, Brooklyn, New York, U.S.A. on Sunday, 4 November 2007. He was cremated on Monday, 5 November 2007 following a 9:00 a.m. Thanksgiving Mass.

VICTORIA dela REA CUDIAMAT-MIRANDA

Joined her Creator on November 3, 2007
at the age of 85.

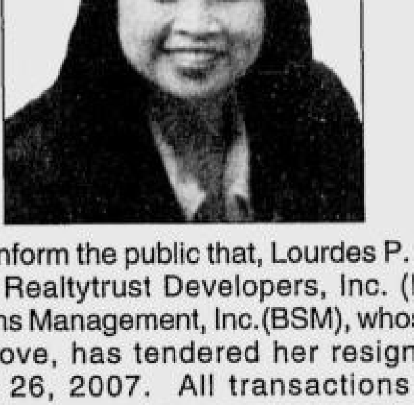
Her bereaved children **Ma. Fe, Marilu, Patricio** (†), **Nicolas, Nilo** and **Joven**, daughters-in-law, grandchildren and great-grandchild request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel-8, La Funeraria Paz, Inc., Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, November 8, 2007 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



This is to inform the public that, Lourdes P. Damazo, Manager of Realtytrust Developers, Inc. (RDI) and Binamira Sons Management, Inc.(BSM), whose picture appears above, has tendered her resignation on September 26, 2007. All transactions entered thereafter will no longer be recognized and honored by RDI & BSM.

(PDI–Nov. 6, 2007)

Municipality of Sto. Niño, Samar
Construction of Ilo-Cabunga-an FMR

Bidding Documents
Invitation for Bids

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: November 06, 2007
ADB Loan No.: 1772-PHI
Contract No.: *SP-08-014*

1. The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of the INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RURAL PRODUCTIVITY ENHANCEMENT SECTOR (InfRES) PROJECT and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the Contract for **Construction of 9.78 Kms. Ilo-Cabunga-an Farm to Market Road** in Sto. Niño, Samar. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries of the Asian Development Bank that:
   - (c) are registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board to undertake infrastructure projects as a Class 'Medium A' contractor or better, and
   - (d) have undertaken within the past 5 years, as the contractor, management contractor of three (3) road construction work projects valued at least Thirteen Million Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 13,500,000.00) each for single Medium A contractor.
2. The Municipality of Sto. Niño ("the Employer") invites sealed bids from bidders with the above qualifications for the construction and completion of the works, which includes road improvement/ upgrading of the 9.78 kms. Included is the construction and installation of cross-drainage structures, excavation, embankment, sub-base and base course. The Contract period for the works is 8 months (240 Calendar Days).
3. Bidders may obtain further information from, and inspect and acquire the bidding documents, at the office of the Employer, at

   Nelson M. Guitones (BAC Chairman)
   Office of the Municipal Assessor
   Municipality of Sto. Niño
   Province of Samar
   Region VIII
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders on submission of a written application to the above office, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 8,000.00. Issuance of Bid Documents will be on November 07, 2007 to December 06, 2007. Pre-Bidding conference will be on December 10, 2007 at 10:00 in the morning at the Municipal Session Hall.
5. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of Two Percent (2%) of the total Bid Price in the form of cash, Manager's Check, or Bank Guarantee or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency, and must be delivered to the above address on or before 10:00 a.m. on December 21, 2007. Bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. on the aforementioned date, in the presence of bidders' representative who choose to attend.
6. The LGU reserves the right to accept or reject any bids and to cancel the bidding process at any time prior to award of the contractor, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidders of the reasons for Employer's action.

(Sgd.) NELSON M. GUITONES
Chairman Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – November 6, 2007)

AUCTION

www.goindustry.com

Live Auction Sale
MACHINE TOOLS & EQUIPMENT; OFFICE FURNITURE; ETC.

Sale Date: Tuesday, 13 November 2007 - 1:00pm
Location: C. De Guzman, Malibay, Pasay City

Machine Tools - BRIDGEPORT, NOWA SANGYO Milling Machine; FUJI, NORIKAWA Mechanical Press; SHINKO, ELBSCHLIFF Surface Grinder; NAMATH, WASINO Lathe; KANSAI Shearing Machine; NAGASE Shaper; YOSIDA Y Type Drill Press; SANCO Air Compressor; Spot Welding, Mig Welding Machine; etc.
Power Tools - Jig Saw; Drill; Orbital Sander; Die Sander; Bench Grinder; Buffing Machine; etc.
Office Furniture - Filing Cabinets; Office Tables; Draftsman Table; Stackable Chairs; Steel Lockers; etc.
Measuring / Hand Tools - Pipe Wrench; Asstd. Sizes Copper Tube Bender; Asstd. Sizes Pullers; Depth Gauges; Micrometers; Callipers; Boring Tools; Rotary Table; Digital Read Out; etc.

ON VIEW: Tuesday, 13th November 2007 - 8:00am - 1:00pm or Earlier by Appointment

REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT: Php20,000 (upon registration)

GoIndustry Henry Butcher
INDUSTRIAL ASSET DISPOSAL AND VALUATION

Contact: JENNY, JESSA or DANG
Tel: +63 2 822 5555
manila@goindustry.com

ERRATUM

In the **Bulletin of Vacant Positions** of the **Office of the Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon** published on this paper on **October 26, 2007,** description should have read **OMBA-GIO1-88-1998** and work experience should be **3** years and not as published.

Our apologies.

BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX
& other SWISS SWATCHES
JEWELRY
DIAMONDS
BEST PRICE
SPOT CASH
8341572
3829198

S.H. ENTERPRISE INC.
is in need of the following
SITE OPERATIONS MANAGER /
ASSISTANT OPERATIONS MANAGER
Qualifications: must have 3 years experience on the same field,
Must know how to speak Korean language
(047) 252-7330 / 252-7950 / 252-7960 / Fax No. (047) 252-7331
#3 Lots 83 & 84 Efficiency Avenue
Subic Bay Industrial Park, Phase 1,
Subic Bay Freeport Zone or may submit the resumé to:
www.s.h.enterprise@subictel.com

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region III – Central Luzon
Schools Division of Tarlac Province
San Roque, Tarlac City

DepED

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education, Division of Tarlac Province, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites prospective bidders to submit Letter of Intent (LOI), apply for eligibility and, if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : **Construction/repair and rehabilitation of Division Office Building**
Location : **DepED, Division of Tarlac Province, Macabulos Drive, San Roque, Tarlac City**
Approved Budget for the Contract : **Php 14,800,000.00**
Contract Duration : **180 Calendar Days**

Bids received that exceed the ABC shall be rejected at bid opening. Late bid shall be rejected.

Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, key personnel and equipment available for the prosecution of the contract, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check and Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

The pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR) shall govern all particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract.

The Schedule of BAC activities are as follows:

	Activities	Schedule/Venue
1	Submission of Letter of Intent (LOI) and Application for Eligibility, and Issuance of Eligibility Documents	November 5-12, 2007 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
2	Submission/Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	Deadline on November 14, 2007 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
3	Opening of Eligibility Requirements	November 17, 2007, 10:00 a.m. DepED, Division of Tarlac Teachers Hall
4	Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	November 19, 2007
5	Issuance of Bid Documents	Starting on November 21, 2007
6	Pre-Bid Conference	November 30, 2007, 10:00 a.m. DepED, Division of Tarlac Teachers Hall
7	Receipt and Opening of Bids	December 12, 2007, 10:00 a.m. DepED, Division of Tarlac Teachers Hall

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at the Division Office upon their submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI). Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the Division BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php10,000.00 to the Division Office's Cashier.

The Division Office assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

(Sgd.) ENGR. EDGARD C. DOMINGO
Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
BAC Chairman

(PDI–Nov. 6 & 13, 2007)

More Classified Ads

Dep-Ed IAEB Printing on Advocacy Matls. A4
Supreme Court of the Phils. A15
Dep-Ed IAEB on IT Infrastructure A18
ZAJ Advtsg. – Feed Mill Plant A18
Dep-Ed IAEB on Computers A18
ILECO A18
Pag-Ibig HDMF A19
City Gov't of Tagum A19
ZAJ Advtsg. – Machine Tools A19
DOLE-NCR B5
Dabaw Periodicals/BIR Region 19 .... B8

LRT-MRT LOOP AUCTION

20 bidders drawn to P6.3-B interconnection project

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT AUthority (LRTA) has reported a high turnout for its auction of the Light Rail Transit-Metro Rail Transit interconnection project worth P6.3 billion.

LRTA Administrator Mel Robles said in a statement that 20 bidders have expressed interest in vying for the project.

Among the 20 bidders are Sumitomo Corp., Marubeni Corp, Hanjin Heavy Industries and Siemens Inc.

Sumitomo Corp. undertook the Capacity Expansion project of LRT Line 1, while Marubeni was the main contractor for the LRT Line 2 construction.

Other bidders are DMCI-EEI First Balfour Consortium, FF Cruz & Co, Leighton Contractors, Foundation Specialist Inc., Cavite Ideal Int'l Construction & Development Corp., Systra Phils. Inc, BES Engineering Corp, Asset Builders Corp., R-II Builders Inc., Pacific Concrete Products Inc., Romago Inc., Telefonica Inc., Autre Porte Global Technique Inc., Meralco Industrial Engineering Services Corp., Genials Trading & Contracting Co. Inc. and China State (Phils.) Construction Engineering Corp.

"This is a sign of confidence with the LRTA," Robles said. "There are no other government offices which received such huge response from bidders."

The LRTA said it would meet with the 20 bidders today in a pre-bid conference at the Santolan depot in Pasig.

Aside from the bidders, the LRTA invited the Catholic Bishop Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), Transparency International, Philippine Contractors Association, Commission on Audit and Office of the Ombudsman to witness the bidding process.

The LRT-MRT project involves the construction of a 7.71-kilometer elevated line from the Monumento station of LRT Line 1 to North Avenue of MRT 3, with two new intermediate stations in Balintawak and Roosevelt.

Robles said that, with the project, LRTA expects average daily ridership to increase by 66.16 percent, or a total of 535,558 passengers, from the current average of 322,309 passengers.

Funding will come from the debt-paper sale of state-owned National Development Co., amounting to P4.6 billion. The rest will be obtained through a General Appropriations Act enacted by Congress.

Construction of the loop will start early next year and is expected to be operational by 2010.

PSBank
U$Dollar
TIME DEPOSIT

	$1,000 to 9,999	$10,000 to 49,999	$50,000 to 99,999	$100,000 and up
1 month	3.50%	3.50%	3.63%	3.75%
2 months	3.50%	3.63%	3.75%	3.88%
3 months	3.63%	3.75%	3.75%	3.88%
6 months	3.75%	3.88%	3.88%	4.00%
12 months	3.88%	4.00%	4.13%	4.25%

* Rates are subject to change without prior notice, on per annum basis and subject to 7.5% withholding tax.

Manage your account online via PSBank Remote Banking.
Open a time deposit now in any of 163 branches nationwide.

For more information, text PSBANK USTD <your name> <landline no.> <email address> then send to 391-772 for Smart or 0917-8902327 for Globe and other networks, or visit our website at www.psbank.com.ph

Member of the PDIC. Maximum Deposit Insurance for each Depositor is P250,000.

Pay higher excise tax, BIR tells La Suerte

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL Revenue said Pall Mall cigarettes may be released from the factory for market distribution, but on the condition that La Suerte Cigar and Cigarette Factory pays higher excise tax.

"(The BIR) never prevented any such withdrawals," BIR Commissioner Lilian Hefti said in a statement. "La Suerte can withdraw the cigarettes from the factory anytime they want, provided they pay the excise tax at the rate prescribed in BIR ruling dated Feb. 22."

The statement was in response to La Suerte's call for the BIR to allow the release of Pall Mall cigarettes from its factory. The firm has expressed concern over the brand's dwindling presence in the market.

La Suerte is the local partner of British American Tobacco in the production and distribution of Pall Mall cigarettes.

The BIR said in the ruling that the applicable tax rate for Pall Mall was P26.06 per pack. This ruling was overturned by the Department of Finance, which said the brand should be taxed only P6.74 per pack.

But amid complaints by La Suerte's competitors, and questions raised by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile over the prudence of the DOF decision, the government agency has again subjected the taxation on Pall Mall under review.

La Suerte said that because of the confusion over the applicable tax rate, the company could not release the Pall Mall stock from its factory.

"In the event that the BIR ruling is reversed with finality, and a lower excise tax classification is made to apply, then any excess taxes paid by La Suerte may be claimed for refund," the BIR said.

Smart all set to ramp up text services for tourists

SMART COMMUNICATIONS Inc. is set to corner the tourist market with the launch of its Japanese and Chinese-language text messaging services.

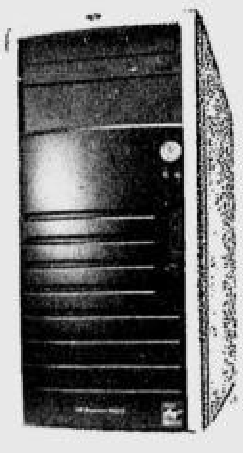
The country's largest cellular provider, which logged in more than three billion international connections in 2006, started offering special text messaging services to Koreans, which form the bulk of foreign tourists in the country, with the launch of its Korean language text messaging service in July.

Smart is now targeting Chinese and Japanese nationals.

Figures from the Department of Tourism show that Japanese tourists ranked third among Philippine visitors in July 2007, with 34,156 or 12.2 percent, of the total 281,032 tourists for the month. China was listed fourth, with 13,304 tourists, or a 4.7-percent share. Korea was still the leading source of arrivals in July 2007, taking a 22.3-percent share, or 62,692 tourists. The United States followed closely as the second biggest provider, contributing 17.3 percent or 48,560 to the aggregate.

Smart said in a statement that many Japanese and Chinese nationals can understand English, but have difficulty writing in the language. Even if they use a handset capable of Japanese or Chinese character input, the content is sometimes not readable when received in Japan and China because the current text coding process for international SMS does not support Japanese or Chinese characters. *Riza T. Olchondra*

STAY AS YOU ARE
OR GET AN HP PROLIANT ML115 SERVER AT A PRICE OF A DESKTOP



Purchasing a server for your office requirements is now financially feasible. Starting at P46,500, you can now easily afford the reliability and stability proven by HP servers. Powered by Second-Generation AMD Opteron™ processor and embedded SATA RAID 0,1,5, the HP ProLiant ML115 Server delivers guaranteed performance and availability for your growing business requirements. Delivering constant uptime, with minimal deployment and less maintenance hassle at a fraction of the cost. Providing greater efficiency that lets you respond to your customers needs faster.

Why run the risk? Upgrade your support level with HP Care Pack Services to keep your business up and running with guaranteed same-day response.

P46,500 | HP PROLIANT ML115 SERVER
- Second-Generation AMD Opteron™ processor Model 1210 (1.8GHz, 2MB Cache)
- 512 MB PC2-5300 ECC (DDR2-667Mhz) (1 x 512 MB)
- One (1) 160GB SATA Hard Drive
- HP Embedded 4 Port SATA Controller with embedded RAID (0,1,5)
- No Operating System included

AMD 64 Opteron™

Get a shopping voucher worth Php 2,500 when you buy a Microsoft® Windows® Server 2003 OEM CAL from HP (part # 409179-B2) with HP ProLiant ML115 in a single Purchase Order.*
Promo is now extended until November 30, 2007.

1-800-1441-6688
or (632) 867-3557
ph.contact@hp.com
www.iloveproliant.com.ph

hp

*TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Please visit www.iloveproliant.com.ph for terms and conditions
©2007 Hewlett-Packard Development Company, L.P. All rights reserved. AMD, the AMD arrow logo, AMD Opteron and combinations thereof, are trademarks of Advanced Micro Device, Inc. The HP Contact Center is available Mondays thru Fridays 8:30 to 5:30pm.

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
KAGAWARAN NG PANANALAPI
KAWANIHAN NG RENTAS INTERNAS
Revenue Region 19
Davao City

Bids and Awards Committee
Tel. No. : 222-3096 • Telefax : 222-3292
IT_19@bir.gov.ph

IAEB No. : 07-10-001

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Internal Revenue, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder Revenue Data Center – Mindanao.

Name of Project : Procurement of I.T. Equipment
Location : Revenue Data Center-Mindanao, BIR, RR-19 KDC Bldg., San Pedro St., Davao City
Brief Description : Delivery of various I.T. Equipment

18 units	Workstations
2 units	Laptop
3 units	24 port Switches
2 units	3KV UPS
18 units	500W UPS
2 units	CDRW with Driver
2 units	Dot Matrix
1 unit	DVD Writer
2 units	External Hard disk Driver
1 unit	Scanner
6 units	Laser Printers
2 units	Printer Server

Approved Budget for the Contract : Two Million Three Hundred Fifty Eight Thousand Pesos (P2,358,000.00)
Delivery Period : 30 days
Source of Fund : World Bank Loan

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Date and Time
Issuance of Bid Documents	November 06 to 16, 2007 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Pre-Bid Conference	November 16, 2007, 10:00 AM
Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals	On or before 10:00 AM November 28, 2007
Opening of Bids	November 28, 2007 at 10:30 AM

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **P2,000.00** to the BIR RR-19 Cashier, 3rd floor, KDC Bldg., San Pedro Street, Davao City.

The **Bureau of Internal Revenue** assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of the bid nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) ATTY. NUZAR N. BALATERO
BAC Chairman

(PDI-November 6, 2007)

Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle
LIFESTYLE
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
sms feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

NO SUGAR. NO CARBS.
20g of WHEY PROTEIN
PROTEIN WATER
The COOL way to STAY FIT!
• In the GYM • On a Diet
• On the Court • For a Healthy Lifestyle

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS ◉ TUESDAY FITNESS ◉ WEDNESDAY 2BU ◉ THURSDAY FOOD ◉ FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

Wanted: Filipino doctors to treat a new childhood epidemic

Where are the local physicians who can treat the biomedical causes of autism? Where are the labs that can do reliable metabolic testing?

By Chelo Banal-Formoso

(The following is an expanded version of an address to the Rotary Club of Makati on Oct. 3 at the Ayala Tower in Makati City.)

TODAY I'M MORE than ever convinced that nothing happens by chance. When I agreed to speak before your group, I had no idea that many of you here would be doctors or in the allied medical professions. As it happens, you're exactly the group of people we parents need to rally around our children with ASD (Autistic Spectrum Disorder).

Autism is not new. Psychologist Leo Kanner first identified a group of children as autistic in the early 1940s. What is new is the realization that autism has become an epidemic.

According to Dr. Kenneth Bock, who spoke on the subject at the Asian Conference on Autism held in Hong Kong last September, autism is one of four new childhood epidemics today, the others being asthma, allergy and attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Dr. Bock is the author of the book "Healing the New Childhood Epidemics: The Groundbreaking Program for the 4-A Disorders."

We may have rid the world of polio, small pox and other life-threatening epidemics through vaccines but we have replaced these epidemics with new ones, and those very same vaccines are now being studied as quite possibly a cause of ASD. Although not life-threatening at first blush, the 4-A disorders can subject our children to lifelong suffering. Bock notes that one out of three kids in the United States suffers from at least one of the new epidemics.

My son Gabriel happens to be among the statistics, having been born in the US and diagnosed there at age 4 in 1990. The verdict was made by a American psychologist based purely on behavior.

This was what the psychologist observed: Upon entering the clinic, Gabriel started turning the light switch on and off, ran to the bookshelf and, when unable to pull out a certain book, kicked the bookshelf. The books came tumbling off the shelves and he got the book that he wanted, except now he was on to something else. He quickly scanned the room, careened to the toy bin, tossed all the toys out, found nothing to his pleasure and zoomed back to the light switch. On, off, on, off — like the signals in his brain.

The psychologist called Gabe to sit down, but it was as if my boy did not hear him. When he tried to physically guide my son toward the chair, Gabe resisted and kept kicking. Almost got him in the groin, too.

Culprit is the brain

At that time, autism was regarded as a psychological disorder. The culprit was in the brain, not in any other part of the body. When his pediatrician noticed that Gabe did not have eye contact and was echoing what he was saying, he made an appointment for us to see the aforementioned psychologist. He did not even bother to check inside my son's body to find out if there was something in there that could be causing the symptoms that he found disturbing. No blood, urine, stool or any other lab test was required.

The psychologist recommended an intervention program that included in-home behavioral therapy and visits to a speech pathologist. No medicines were prescribed. But we were told we were lucky because at least we could keep our autistic child at home.

The earlier generation of afflicted kids and their moms were not so fortunate. Autism used to be blamed on "refrigerator mothers" who were incapable of loving their children. The kids lacked eye contact and were oblivious of others, preferring to be by their lonesome, flapping their arms, twirling their hands, rocking their bodies, babbling, and doing many other odd things. And it was all because of Mom and her cold, cold heart.

As a result, kids were taken away and put in institutions. Wait a minute, said a doctor in San Diego, California, who had an autistic son whom he knew his wife loved and cared for dearly. Dr. Bernard Rimland debunked the "frigid mom" theory through research. He founded the Autism Research Institute (ARI) which sent out questionnaires to parents all over America to track the medical and developmental histories of their autistic children.

Links to infection

The questionnaires came back with data showing certain commonalities among ASD kids, medically. They had frequent bouts with infections, notably ear infections, and were far too often exposed to antibiotics at an early age. They had been given vaccinations at the prescribed ages, sometimes two at a time, and had had severe reactions (high fever, seizures, rashes, diarrhea, etc.). They had lots of allergies and tended to eat the same food day in and day out.

The ASD community suffered a great loss when Dr. Rimland passed away last year. Not only did he start ASD research rolling, he also convinced a group of doctors to focus their studies on the possible biomedical causes of autism based on his research. The doctors he got together became part of the groundbreaking group called Defeat Autism Now (DAN). Many of these physicians have specialized in treating ASD children.

As a result of many DAN collaborations, there are breakthroughs that now link ASD to allergies, gastrointestinal inflammation, immune deficiency and toxicity—giving us a new picture of autism as a whole package of biology and behavior. More importantly, in addition to behavior analysis and language drills, ASD children are now recovering through nutritional intervention and detoxification.

The problem was, my husband and I didn't know about any of this 17 years ago when Gabe was diagnosed. All we were told was that autism was a psychiatric disorder that was genetic, incurable and, well, so sorry about that.

There's no way on earth I would have accepted such a blow without a fight. Mothers are foolish that way, I guess. I desperately wanted to help Gabe so, in between the sobbing and the praying, I read up and attended conferences to keep abreast of the latest studies on autism. One time I read that in some kids, milk caused frequent infection and the subsequent use of antibiotics to treat the infections assailed the body's immunity. This had me worried. I had started giving Gabe fresh milk after his first birthday. At about the same time, he started getting ear infections, and the pediatrician always prescribed antibiotics.

No to milk

After reading about milk, I stopped giving it to Gabe just to see if it would abate the ear infections. To my relief, it did! And to my surprise, although I eliminated just the milk and did not avoid all other dairy products, there was a big improvement in Gabe's behavior. He started to calm down. He became less irritable and even developed a sense of humor. He was soon enjoying the sessions with his therapists. He became more verbal. And he learned to read instead of just opening up books and placing them all over the house, like markers for some sort of fantasy in his head.

The more I read and the more I listened, the more I was convinced that something other than DNA was bringing on the autism. It didn't make sense to blame it all on the genes because the number of diagnosed kids was increasing dramatically every year. Why was this when most of the autistic population never bore children?

When Gabe started going to school, I had to slow down on my sleuthing and focus on giving him the best education possible. Shortly after that, I also returned to a career that I'd always loved and so didn't have time to spend looking for a cause and a cure. No more pining for the moon.

Not isolated

Then a Hong Kong parent invited me in 2006 to their first Asian Conference on Autism. His excitement about sharing the latest DAN studies on the biomedical causes of autism aroused the old curiosity within me. The two HK conferences that I've attended have confirmed what many parents had suspected all along: ASD is not an isolated disorder in the brain and, more important, it is not hopeless.

DEALING/ C5

The National Conference on Autism on Nov. 10-11, organized by the Autism Society of the Philippines, will feature lectures by Dr. William Shaw on the most common metabolic and genetic causes of autism and PDD, among them abnormal levels of gastrointestinal microorganisms, vitamin and nutritional deficiencies, food allergies, industrial pollution, heavy metals intoxication and mineral imbalances. Dr. Shaw is the director of Great Plains Laboratory for Health, Nutrition and Metabolism in Kansas, specializing in urine metabolic testing for autism. He is the author of "Biomedical Treatments for Autism and PDD " Call 9266941 or 9298447 to register

CCAC CHINESE CULINARY ARTS CENTER
2130 M. H. Del Pilar St., Malate, Manila 1004
Tel: (632) 530-2053; 525-2720

- Be prepared for the Holiday Season. Learn how to cook **AUTHENTIC CHINESE DISHES** in a short period of time. HONG KONG CHEF LU reveals to all his students the principles and secrets in cooking supremely delicious tasting foods. You will learn. **GUARANTEED.**
- We offer the following lessons:
  - ~DIMSUM such as Siopao, Different kinds of Siomai, Spare ribs, etc.
  - ~SHORT ORDER DISHES such as Stir-fried Kangkong, Fried crispy shrimp balls, Beef with broccoli, etc.
  - ~PARTY DISHES such as Fried Pigeons, Stuffed crab pincers, Fried Duck with Taro, etc.
  - ~ROASTING such as Asado, White Chicken, Cold cuts, Assorted Soyed Dishes, etc.
- Also, Mr. Lu has opened his Home to those who know real good foods (exclusive rooms for parties. BY RESERVATION ONLY).
- You may *avail of the complete list of schedule*, list of menu and other details *thru email* ccac01012006@yahoo.com, or come to our office between 9AM – 6PM [Mon to Sat].
- Beautiful Laminated recipe cards for sale.

Did you know?
Science fiction became popular in the 50's.
Cream PURE CORNSTARCH
Introduced in 1951. Like science fiction, Cream Corn Starch is popular to this day.
Also available: Cream ALL-PURPOSE FLOUR

Hairloss is wrecking her life and she doesn't know why.

Thinning hair makes a woman look older. When your hair's health, shine and bounce weaken, it seems your personality is likewise affected. Self-consciousness, diminished self-esteem, even bouts of depression may occur.

Most women who have gone through this harrowing experience say they tried everything to stop hairloss, from special treatments at the salon, to a whole range of over-the-counter products. But nothing worked. Sadly, many "remedies" may have actually made the condition worse. Until they found out the reason why they were losing hair, little could be done to end the problem.

Possible reasons for hairloss.

Women's hairloss can be caused by hormonal changes. Female Pattern Baldness (or Androgenetic Alopecia) is a reaction to male hormones in the body (androgens) which can weaken a woman's hair. Other factors can be stress, poor nutrition, illnesses and reaction to certain medications, childbirth and menopause, frequent coloring, curling, straightening, and many more. Most causes of hairloss, when they are correctly identified, can be treated with good results.

Getting the facts on why you are losing hair.

Trichology is the study of the functions and problems of hair. A trichologist is someone who has been educated in the subject and is qualified to determine the reasons why your hair is not in good health.

Where do you find a trichologist? One name that has been synonymous with Professional Trichology in the Philippines for more than 25 years: Svenson. Svenson trichologists will examine your hair and scalp and give you advice on what to do.

A trichologist - what does it cost?

Nothing. Svenson trichologists offer an in-depth Hair & Scalp analysis totally free of charge.

Pre-hairloss symptoms.

Before your hair starts falling out, be aware of early warning signs such as persistent dandruff, flaking, and scalp irritations. Beat hairloss - see a trichologist when you see these signs!

These visible indications are embarrassing, and when combined with dirt in the atmosphere, shampoo chemicals or excess oiliness, they can block follicles, badly affecting hair growth.

Treatments to help your hair.

Depending on the findings of your Hair & Scalp analysis, you can decide on treatment programs including:

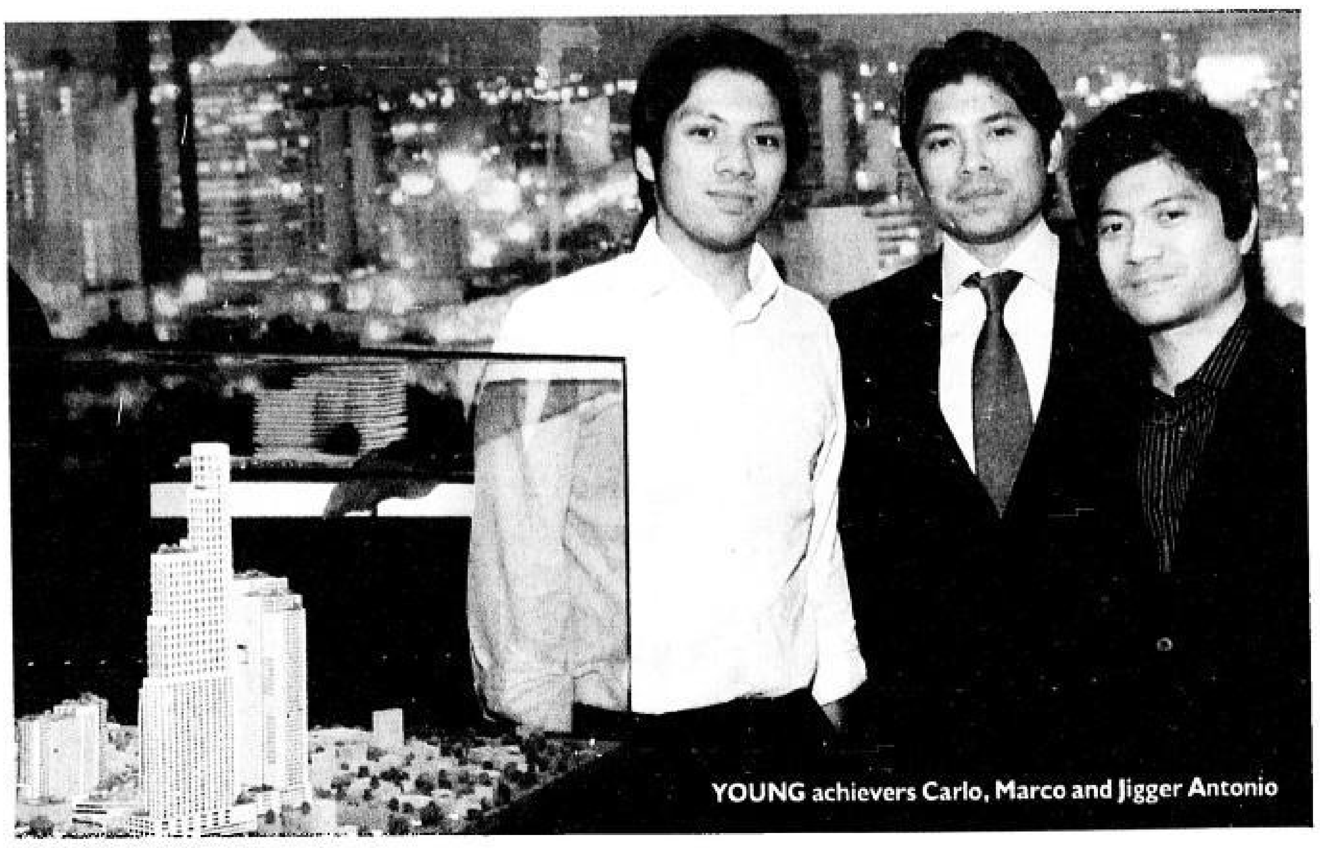
ULTRA HAIR REINFORCER - deep-cleans scalp, creates healthier environment for growth. Hair becomes thicker, shinier, more lush.

ULTRA-LUSH VOLUMIZER - quickly controls and stops hair fall, helps restore original lushness, volume and softness.

SCALP-CORRECTIVE- eliminates dandruff, flaking and other irritations, returns scalp to normal state, prevents imminent hairloss.

Make an appointment today to see a trichologist free of charge. Call Svenson at 892-4247/ 234-0851(Cebu).

POPULAR real estate magnate Ambassador Joey Antonio and his vivacious wife, Hilda Reyes Antonio



YOUNG achievers Carlo, Marco and Jigger Antonio

BENG and Ricky Dee with Marivic Madrigal Vazquez

CARMEN Delgado, her mom Luli Perez Rubio D. and Natalia Lobregat

CUTIE Del Mar with May Munoz and Cedric Lee

A partnership made in heaven

CHIC Mons Tantoco and Belo Clinic's headturner Vicki Belo with Anton San Diego and Leica Carpo

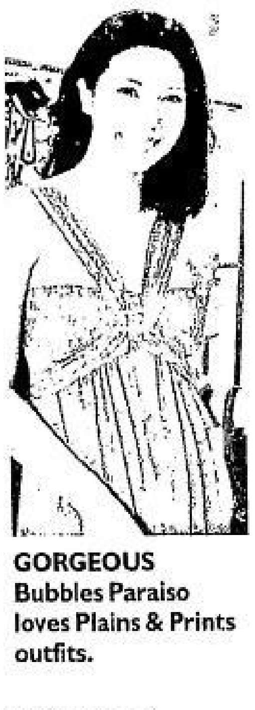
BARBARA B. Aboitiz, Michael Lhuillier, Cristina Bradner and restaurateur Margarita Fores

NINA Garcia and architect Ramon Antonio

GINA and Jan Campos

GP Reyes and Diether Ocampo

YANEE Nuñez and eye-catching Michelle Madrigal



GORGEOUS Bubbles Paraiso loves Plains & Prints outfits.

HIP gals: Saab Magalona and Kara Alfonso

HEY, goodlookers: Bettina Carlos and Rambo Nuñez

ENRIQUE Luy Jr., Irene Luy, Erickson Farillas and Randy Ang

THE HIGH-END PHILIPPINE TATLER magazine and the country's largest privately owned real-estate company, Century Properties, mounted an awesome unforgettable gathering of *alta* society's power players and hotshot mega namedroppable luminaries from various industries in a double launch event that will be talked about for months to come, *palanggas.*

Tatler unveiled its two special titles: the must-have "Philippines' Best Restaurants Guide 2007," and "Interiors Volume 2: Living by Design," a book that highlights the works of 10 Filipino design masters in full blazing color.

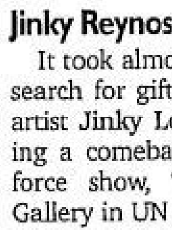
World-class Century unveiled its hottest new, chic development masterpiece, Century City, a fantastic sprawling mixed use city within a city, rising at the 4.8-ha Makati property, which was once occupied by the International School. This spectacular development will be a gorgeous New York City-inspired high-rise called The Gramercy Residences.

With this *trés* special invitational happening held in the elegant and breathtaking The Gramercy Residences showroom at the Pacific Star Building, even jaded me was agog and completely enthralled with the magnificent model units, *palanggas.*

And who were there? Century's brilliant heirs to the throne **Jigger, Marco** and **Carlo Antonio**; Tatler's **Anton San Diego**, PR and events man **GP Reyes**; the venerable **Washington Sycip**; the stunning **Amparito Lhuillier**; power couple **Edward** and **Margarita Delgado**; Metrobank Foundation's **Chito Sobrepeña** and **Susan Po Rufino**; **James** and **Rica de Jesus**; **Charles Lhuillier**; **Sinai** and **Sigalit Djemal**; jetting-in-from-Vietnam **Mayenne Carmona**; in-demand designers **Gerry Contreras** and **Leo Almeria**; **Cynthia** and **Ivy Almario**; **Gippy Tantoco**; lawyer **King Reyno** with brother **Patrick**; Weber Shandwick's **Mike Toledo**; **Kai** and **Rafael Santos**; **Anna Angara**, plus tons of fabulous personalities too many to mention, *palanggas.*

With event host **Daphne Oseña**, Century Properties chair, Ambassador **José Eduardo B. Antonio**, and Philippine Tatler's **Irene Martel-Francisco** led the ceremonial toast of the must-have bubbly, Möet & Chandon champagne, *naturellement*, to celebrate such super successful partnership. Some invitees raised flutes, while others their glasses of chilled cocktail drinks from Grey Goose, Bacardi and Bombay Sapphire.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH



Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

For more info, visit www.centurycity.com.ph, or to avail of the books, call 8140771.

"Named after a private residential park in New York, the P5-billion Gramercy Residences will have a minimum of 65 floors," explained Century's young **Jigger Antonio**, who toured me personally around the different gorgeously designed units.

Plains & Prints' new holiday collection

As the year comes to an end, tons of holiday collections are being launched endlessly. The latest event *moi* attended was the unveiling of the Plains & Prints collection at Ayala TriNoma during a cocktail party.

The vacant space in front of the store was transformed into a modern fashion venue highlighted by framed pictures of the fashion brand's endorsers, eye-catching **Gretchen Barretto** and **Celine Lopez**, sporting the new collection, *palanggas.*

It was fun going through the racks of hip and trendy clothes and studying Plains & Prints Filipino, the brand's high-end line which features creatively crafted denim pieces. Yeah, this brand has really come a long way since it opened its first outlet 12 years ago, dahlings. There surely are cool outfits for all you style-conscious gals.

Hey, check out Plains & Prints' holiday collection, *palanggas*, in any of their 40 outlets plus at 1/L, Ayala TriNoma Mall in North Edsa.

This fun fashion happening, as always, was superbly and successfully organized by cyber-smart **Marilen Nuñez** and her team from L.E.N. Plus Inc.

Jinky Reynoso's 'Mystic Ranges'

It took almost three years of inspirational search for gifted and super talented young artist **Jinky Lorenzo-Reynoso** before making a comeback via her awesome tour de force show, "Mystic Ranges," at Hiraya Gallery in UN Avenue, *palanggas*. Old-name Hiraya Gallery, *naturellement*, is one of the most respected galleries in the Philippines, thanks to its owner and curator, **Didi Dee**, no less, dahlings.

All the *tres* invitees from all corners of the globe, which included Swiss Embassy counselor and deputy head of mission **Irene Flückiger** and **Alessandra Pomponio**; Japanese Embassy information and cultural center director **Dodo Tomoko**; and Mexican businesswomen **Hilda** and **Gabriela Enrique** described the paintings as "infinite visuals that pass on meditations from Zen, Confucius and positive thinking." They were all raving about the artist, as she put on view "fragments of lifetime memories… in dulcet colors and boundless haze," *palanggas.*

Endlessly chatting about art and artists while nibbling on cocktail finger food and enjoying wine were popular artists **Lito Carating, Maya Muñoz, Don Salubayba** and **Dante Perez.**

Naturellement, the Reynoso clan came in hurricane force, *palanggas*, led by the artist-husband.

The truly mystical feel of the night was complemented by Japanese Sushi Boats from Jinky's uncle, Dr. **Boy Vazquez** of Soho/Café Juanita, and some Asian dishes prepared by Hiraya Gallery's very own **Elaine Carlos.**

It definitely was an awesome occasion where we all went home celebrating boundless visuals and infinite possibilities for the mind and soul, *palanggas.*

THE PENINSULA Manila Group: GM David Batchelor with wife Marilou Toda and Director of public relations Mariano Garchitorena

KAREN Ganzon with Pauline Banusing and Caroline Gorriceta

YOUNG, talented artist Jinky Lorenzo Reynoso and husband Emilio (third and fourth from right) with Mexican guest Gabriela Enrique, Mary Ann Reynoso, Hilda Enrique and Engr. Martin Reynoso

ARTIST and lawyer Bien Benitez, Jinky Lorenzo Reynoso and Cecille Reynoso-Atienza

SWISS Embassy counselor and deputy head of mission Irene Flückiger with Alessandra Pomponio and Hiraya's Didi dee

JIMMY Pelea, Karen Fernandez, Plains & Prints first couple Roxanne Farillas and husband Erickson Farillas, Hazel Del Castillo and Leane Caimol

INNER AWARENESS
Jaime Licauco

Hearing, smelling and feeling psychic information

CLAIRAUDIENCE IS THE mental ability to hear voices or conversations from afar. This happens rarely and when it does, it is almost always spontaneous or involuntary. One just hears a conversation without the concerned parties anywhere near the individual.

This happened to an officemate of mine way back in the early '60s. I was working in an installment financing firm located along a very busy and noisy street.

During lunch break, I was still in the office finishing some work. My officemate, named Greg, was looking out the window facing the street. When he looked down from the sixth-floor windowpane, he saw two of our female co-employees talking on the sidewalk under a tree. But to his surprise he could hear very clearly what they were talking about.

> Although most people's third eye or clairvoyant vision is not fully developed, they can usually sense or feel spirits during their waking states and even during sleep

When the two female employees went up to report for work, Greg told them, "I heard what you were talking about down there."

"Oh yeah?" said Cora, one of the female employees. "What did you hear me say?"

"Well," replied Greg, "you were telling Jane that you had just broken up with your boyfriend after a big quarrel last night!"

Cora was shocked, because that was exactly what she had told Jane a while ago.

How did Greg hear a conversation six floors down with the windows closed? Here is an example of a spontaneous psychic connection that took place between Greg and the two women. He tuned in to them without intending to, because his eyes were focused on them while in a relaxed state of mind.

Mothers develop strong psychic connection with their small children. They can hear them crying even when far away. Emotional closeness can bring about psychic attunement or connection.

Clairolfaction

Clairolfaction is a psychic or mental ability to smell psychic information rather than see, feel or hear it. I never would have known of such a rare psychic power were it not for the fact that I had a student who discovered precisely such an ability in my class on ESP and Intuition Development.

Oscar (not his real name) was a young man in his late 20s when he came to my class. He did not think he had any psychic power at all. In fact, he was getting disappointed with the ESP exercises during the seminar.

Then it dawned on him that the psychic information he was getting was from his sense of smell and not from his sense of sight, hearing or touch. He could smell psychic information.

For example, when I gave the class an exercise on psychic diagnosis, he could smell something bad on the head of his partner, although they were not really sitting that close to each other. He found out later she was suffering from a severe headache.

In another exercise, he smelled something in the kidney of another partner who was suffering from a kidney infection. He was able to prove his ability to smell psychic information during a meeting of the graduates of the course. He again was able to accurately smell the condition of his partner.

This psychic ability is known by various names in other books.

Clairsentience

Clairsentience is the mental ability to sense or feel the presence of invisible things like spirits, energies or even thought forms which are not normally sensed by ordinary people. There are more people who are clairsentient than clairvoyant. They can feel things but can't see them.

I am one of those who can feel more than I can see. For example, I can tell if there are spirits around the house or any place without seeing them. Many times I can do this even at a distance. Given only the exact address of a person, I can tune in to the place and tell if there are negative spirits around. If the spirits are not negative, I have more difficulty sensing them.

When there are highly negative entities around, I feel some difficulty or heaviness in my breathing and I develop a headache. Others have goose pimples or feel their hair standing up. Sometimes, when an elemental or earthbound spirit comes too near, one may go into a trance and he or she can't move. Avoid going to hospitals or wakes because there are usually earthbound spirits there. Cemeteries are even less of a problem. I don't usually feel entities in them compared to funeral chapels during wakes.

Although most people's third eye or clairvoyant vision is not fully developed, they can usually sense or feel spirits during their waking states and even during sleep. We should learn to accept whatever psychic gifts we have such as clairsentience, clairaudience or clairolfaction and not try to force ourselves to be clairvoyants. As St. Paul said in Corinthians, there are different gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Note: The next Makati Soulmates, Karma & Reincarnation seminar will be held Nov. 10, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. For details, call 8107245 or 8926806. In Cagayan de Oro City, I will conduct a Stress Control, Self-healing and Goal Setting seminar on Nov. 17; and Soulmates, Karma and Reincarnation on Nov. 18. For details, contact Jessica Tomacas at 0920-9235704.

INSIDE OUT
Cory Quirino

Laxatives for body, mind and spirit

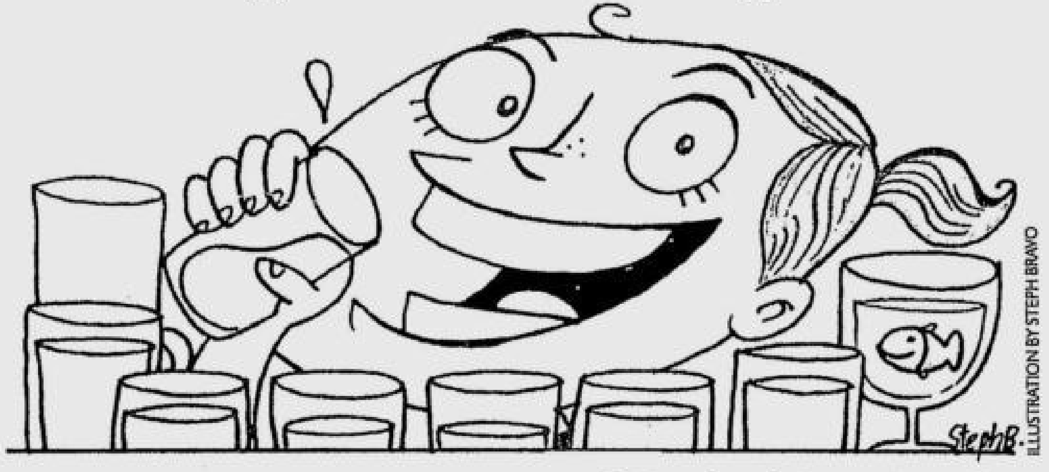


ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

DO YOU THINK YOU NEED TO RELEASE all the junk from within by taking a laxative?

Truth is, you may be addicted to taking laxatives as a means of ridding your body of waste buildup. But more than just the body, how about removing all the toxins from your own mind and spirit? That's also buildup of the highest order.

Relieve yourself

If you desperately seek out a laxative once a week for months, there is something wrong with your body/diet/lifestyle. This means that you are not OK. It will not harm your health to make some changes of the natural kind.

Body Flush—There are eight things you must do every day in order to prevent constipation:

- Drink 8-10 glasses of water in addition to your 3-4 glasses of beverages a day. Note that caffeine (coffee/tea), alcohol do not count because they actually cause you to lose water, being natural diuretics.
- Exercise regularly. Try 30 minutes of brisk walking daily or engage in some form of aerobic exercise. This assists food in moving through your body.
- Follow your urge—"If you gotta go, you gotta go." Don't hold it back or ignore it when you feel the urge. Ignoring the signals will harden your stools.
- Schedule yourself. Make it a habit to visit the toilet 20 minutes after meals in order to train yourself. Don't worry. And don't strain. After some time, your bowels will be trained.
- Use a foot rest in the bathroom. This is a practical tip or a neat trick. Stepping on a small stool can help you relax.
- Ask your doctor—Have a chat with him to see if there are any medications you are taking that may cause constipation like antihistamines, antidepressants, antacids, diuretics, anti-Parkinson-ism drugs. Find alternatives/substitutes.
- Eat high-fiber foods—oatmeal, barley, breakfast cereals, beans, berries, dates, pears, sweet potatoes.
- Drink prune juice before breakfast and/or 2 tablespoons of virgin coco oil.

Unloading the other half

Cleansing the other significant half of you, your mind and spirit may not be as easy as drinking a glass of water, but it will definitely ease the aches and pains of your thoughts and feelings. You have to develop an internal sonar. That's right.

Sonar focus

When you are in a group of powerful negative emotion, like anger—stop what you are doing and what you are saying and what you are thinking. Focus your attention on what you are feeling.

Easier said than done? But it works. When you start feeling, you will immediately channel the full force of your anger into your consciousness. Choose not to act on an angry impulse. Remember that beneath all anger is pain. According to Dr. Gary Zukav ("The Heart of the Soul") "anger is an anesthetic." It is less painful than its actual root cause. In other words, angry people are people in pain. Because most people are afraid to face their own issues (hurts, bitterness, etc.), they naturally strike outward by shouting and doing destructive/cruel things.

- Write yourself a letter as though you were advising your own child. Honest feelings will naturally flow from you in order to release negative feelings.
- Use a punching bag or take up boxing. The physical act of hitting an inanimate object (rather than a person) can be very healing. Release your frustrations now.
- Pray and meditate. When you invoke the power of God, miracles can happen. Be secure in your own stillness. Silence is a friend.
- Forgive someone who has wronged you but, best of all, forgive yourself.

Bathe in beauty not in bitterness

Prepare a hot, relaxing bath. Mix with rose oil aromatherapy. Throw in white rose petals. Because white symbolizes cleansing, you must cover yourself in the purity of your own goodness while affirming "I bathe in beauty and the light."

Love and light!

Reference: Inner Cleansing Cures

WESTERN UNION
123 456 789
PH
Gold
MERRY MERRY ANG PASKO. MANY MANY GIFTS

PARA SA'YO SA WESTERN UNION GOLD CARD!

Get freebies and discounts, pag present pa lang
at kada transaction sa **Western Union Gold Card.**

May 2 ways to get more gifts from your Western Union Gold Card!

1. With every transaction using your Western Union Gold Card get coupons that entitle you to gifts and discounts.

OFFERS	
Xtreme Magic Sing	· PhP 500 discount on any Xtreme Magic Sing main mic unit in any participating Xtreme Magic Sing dealer outlets. · PhP 300 discount on any Xtreme Magic Sing duet mic unit in any participating Xtreme Magic Sing dealer outlets. · PhP 300 discount on any Xtreme Magic Sing song chip in any participating Xtreme Magic Sing dealer outlets. · Free Xtreme Magic Sing T-shirt for every purchase of Xtreme Magic Sing main mic and song chip/duet mic (in selected redemption centers)
Kodak	· Free 5 4R Kodak Digital Prints for every 25 4R Kodak Digital Prints ordered in any participating Kodak Express stores. · Free one Kodak Picture Kiosk print for every 10 4R Kodak Picture Kiosk prints in any participating Kodak Express stores. · PhP 50 OFF for every purchase of Kodak Ultra Compact Flash OR Water & Sports Single Use Camera in any participating Kodak Express stores. · 10% discount on cash purchase of Kodak Easyshare V series, Z series and M series (available in Silicon Valley/ Camerahaus)
The Mabuhay Manor Hotel	· 20% Discount on Hotel Accommodations on cash or credit card (based on published rates) · 20% Discount on Food and Beverage products at Sutukil and Lola's Restaurant. · 10% Discount on Banquet Packages · 20% Discount on use of Swimming Pool

OFFERS	
Goldilocks	· Free 1 pc. Sandwich Bread 400 g. for a minimum single receipt worth P350.00
Chowking	· "Special Holiday Salo Set" for 4 persons for Western Union Gold card holders (total savings of P30.00)
Star City	· 20% discount on maximum of three (3) regular Ride-all-you-can tickets (not valid from December 20 - January 2)
The Look/ Crissa Boutique	· 10% discount on all regular priced Crissa, Hotkiss, Redgirl, Bubblegum and Egojeans products availed in any participating The Look boutiques · 10% discount on all regular priced Crissa products availed in any participating Crissa boutiques

Promo duration is from October 1 to December 31, 2007.
AVAILABLE IN SELECTED PARTICIPATING AGENT LOCATIONS
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4848 Series of 2007

2. Just present your Western Union Gold Card and get gifts and discounts.

OFFERS	
David's Salon	15 % Discount on facial and hair services
Air Philippines	For Website or Textsite Bookings: 7% Discount on published fares
DHL	$5 discount for every DHL transaction (except for Jumbo box, Jumbo Jr. box and Express Pallet)

OFFERS	
Goldilocks	5% discount on greeting cakes
HBC	Free SANSAN matte lipstick #6 4gm. for a minimum purchase of P125.00

Promo duration is from January 1 to December 31, 2007.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0088 Series of 2007

WESTERN UNION
FAST, RELIABLE, WORLDWIDE MONEY TRANSFER

Call **888-1200**
for more details
Apply now, libre 'to!

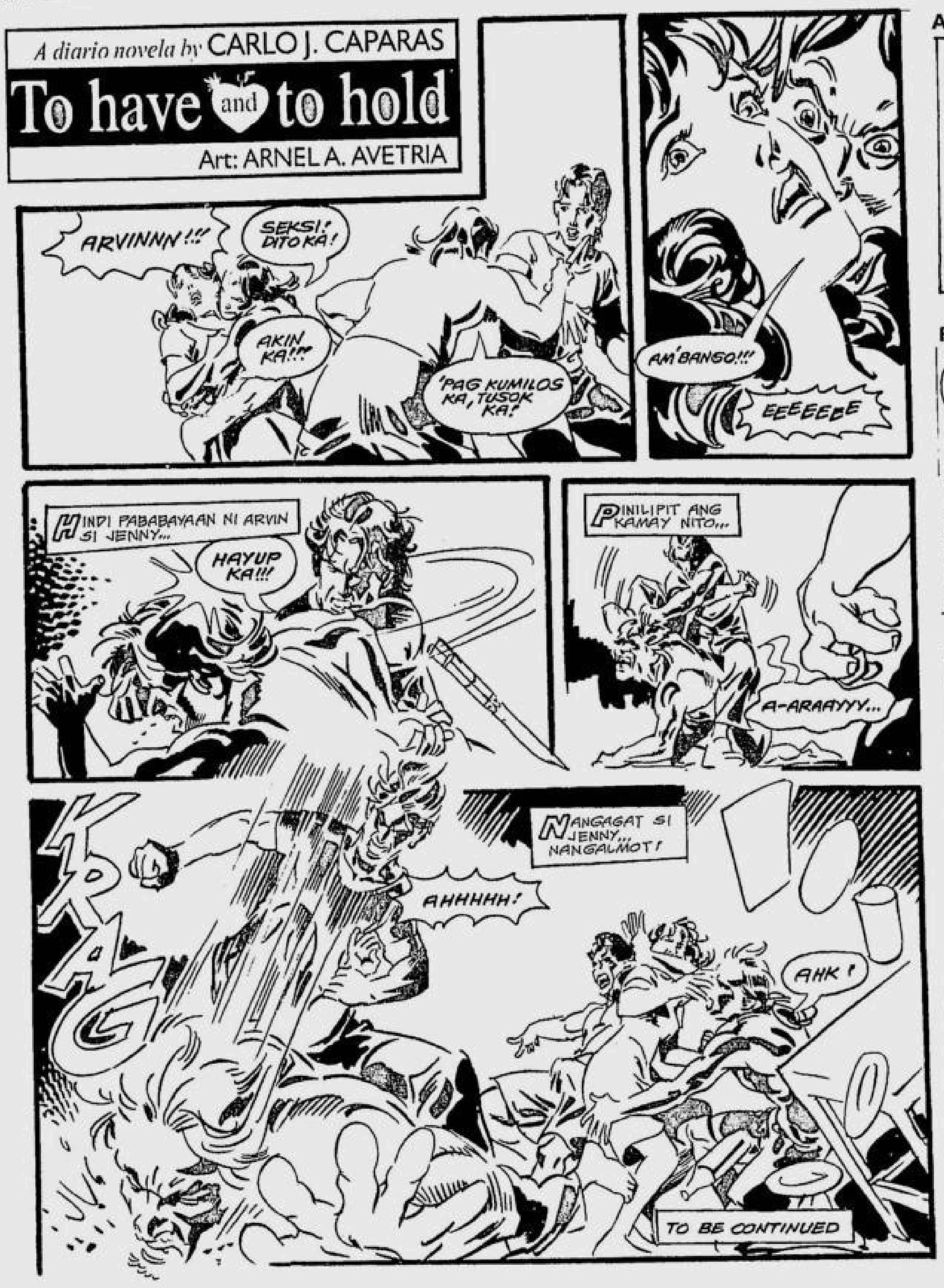
Xtreme Magic Sing Kodak The Mabuhay Manor Chowking Star City look crissa
Goldilocks David's Salon Air Philippines DHL hbc

See brochures for more details.
© 2007 Western Union Holdings, Inc.
All rights reserved.

A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

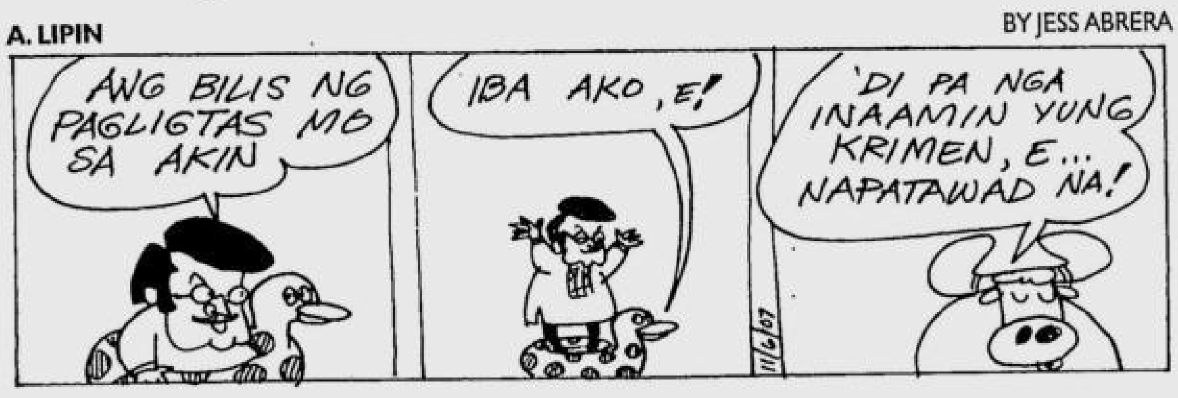
To have and to hold

Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA


ARVINNN!!!
SEKSI! DITO KA!
AKIN KA!!!
'PAG KUMILOS KA, TUSOK KA!
AM'BANGO!!!
EEEEEEE
HINDI PABABAYAAN NI ARVIN SI JENNY...
HAYUP KA!!!
PINILIPIT ANG KAMAY NITO...
A-ARAAYYY...
KRAG
NANGAGAT SI JENNY... NANGALMOT!
AHHHHH!
AHK!
TO BE CONTINUED

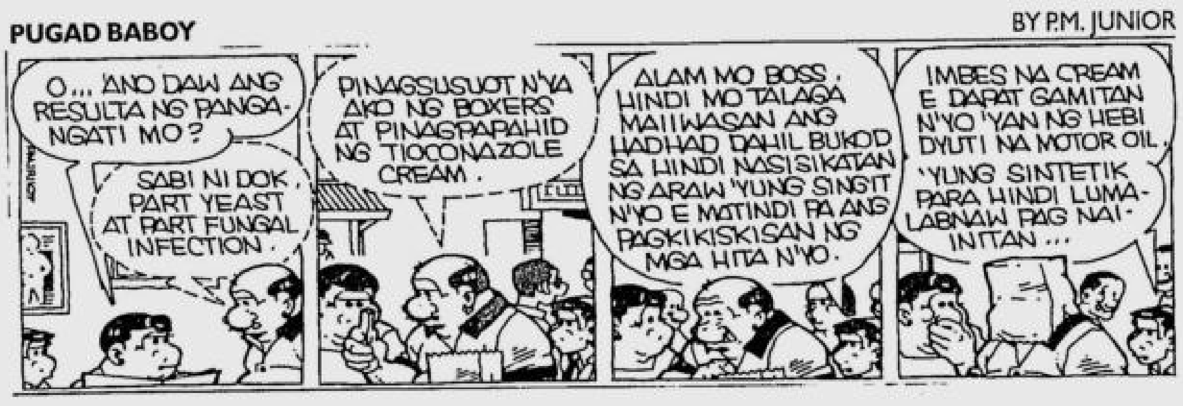
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ANG BILIS NG PAGLIGTAS MO SA AKIN
IBA AKO, E!
11/6/07
'DI PA NGA INAAMIN YUNG KRIMEN, E... NAPATAWAD NA!

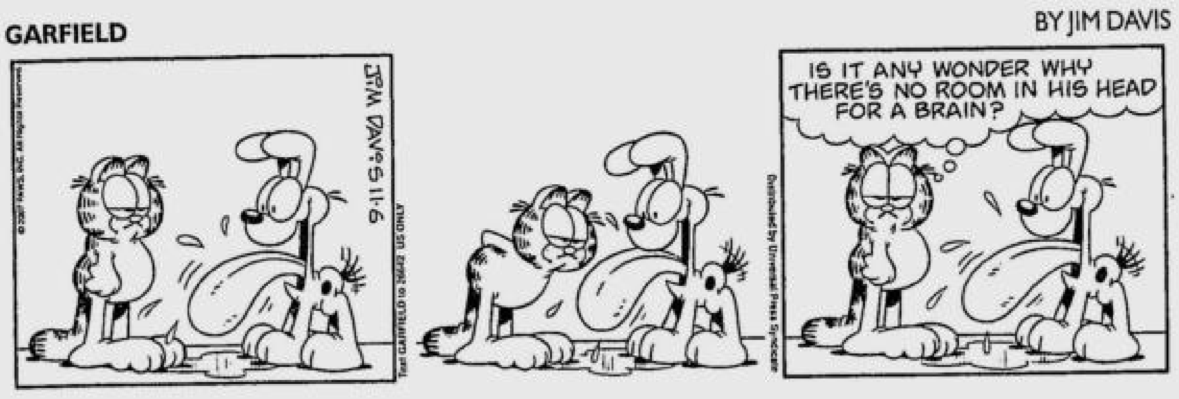
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


O... 'ANO DAW ANG RESULTA NG PANGA-NGATI MO?
SABI NI DOK, PART YEAST AT PART FUNGAL INFECTION.
PINAGSUSUOT N'YA AKO NG BOXERS AT PINAGPAPAHID NG TIOCONAZOLE CREAM.
ALAM MO BOSS, HINDI MO TALAGA MAIIWASAN ANG HADHAD DAHIL BUKOD SA HINDI NASISIKATAN NG ARAW 'YUNG SINGIT N'YO E MATINDI PA ANG PAGKIKISKISAN NG MGA HITA N'YO.
IMBES NA CREAM E DAPAT GAMITAN N'YO 'YAN NG HEBI DYUTI NA MOTOR OIL. 'YUNG SINTETIK PARA HINDI LUMA-LABNAW PAG NAI-INITAN...

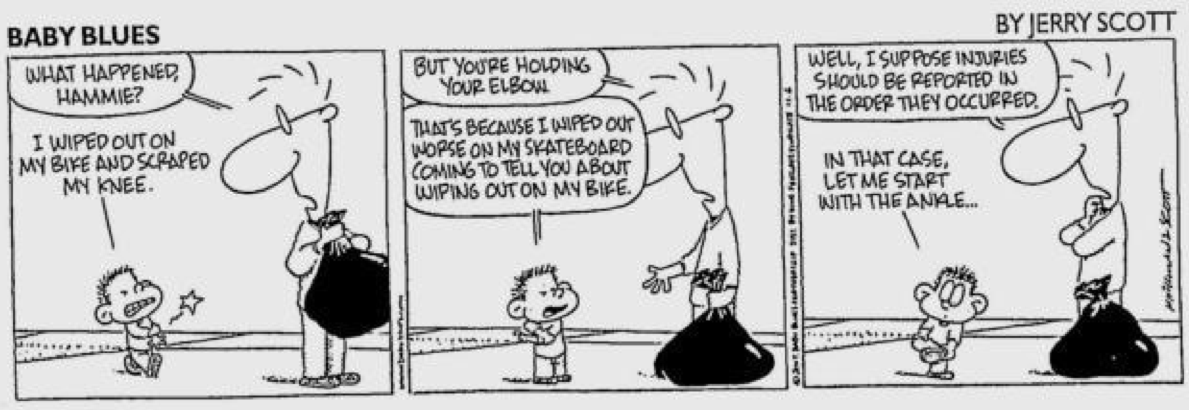
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


JIM DAVIS 11-6
IS IT ANY WONDER WHY THERE'S NO ROOM IN HIS HEAD FOR A BRAIN?

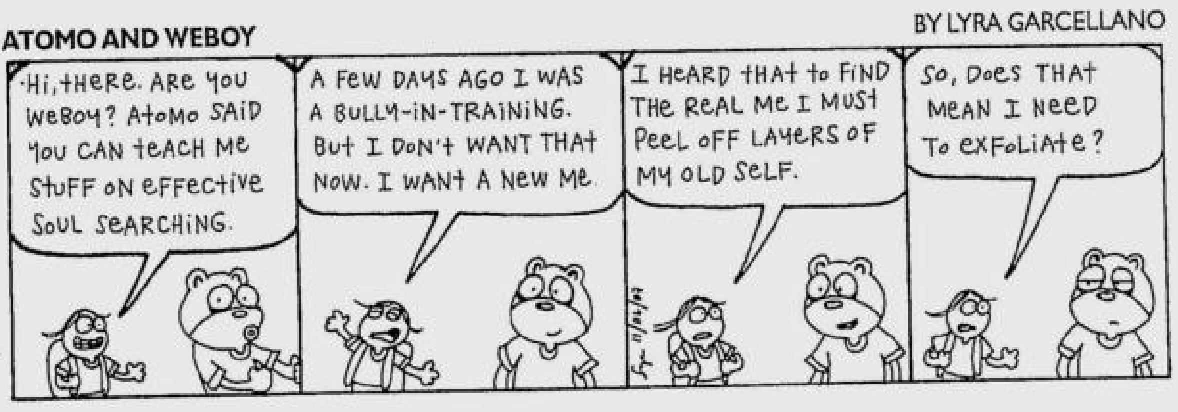
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHAT HAPPENED, HAMMIE?
I WIPED OUT ON MY BIKE AND SCRAPED MY KNEE.
BUT YOU'RE HOLDING YOUR ELBOW.
THAT'S BECAUSE I WIPED OUT WORSE ON MY SKATEBOARD COMING TO TELL YOU ABOUT WIPING OUT ON MY BIKE.
WELL, I SUPPOSE INJURIES SHOULD BE REPORTED IN THE ORDER THEY OCCURRED.
IN THAT CASE, LET ME START WITH THE ANKLE...

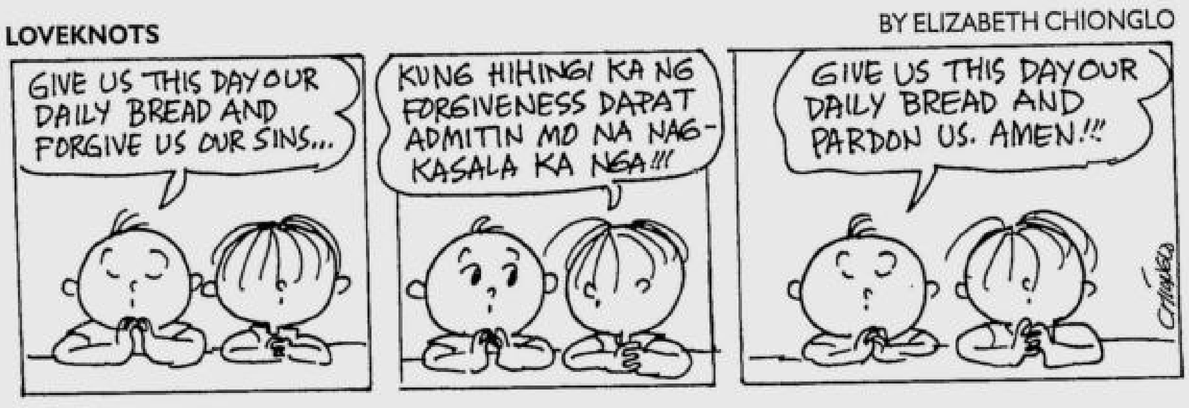
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hi, there. Are you Weboy? Atomo said you can teach me stuff on effective soul searching.
A few days ago I was a bully-in-training. But I don't want that now. I want a new me.
I heard that to find the real me I must peel off layers of my old self.
So, does that mean I need to exfoliate?

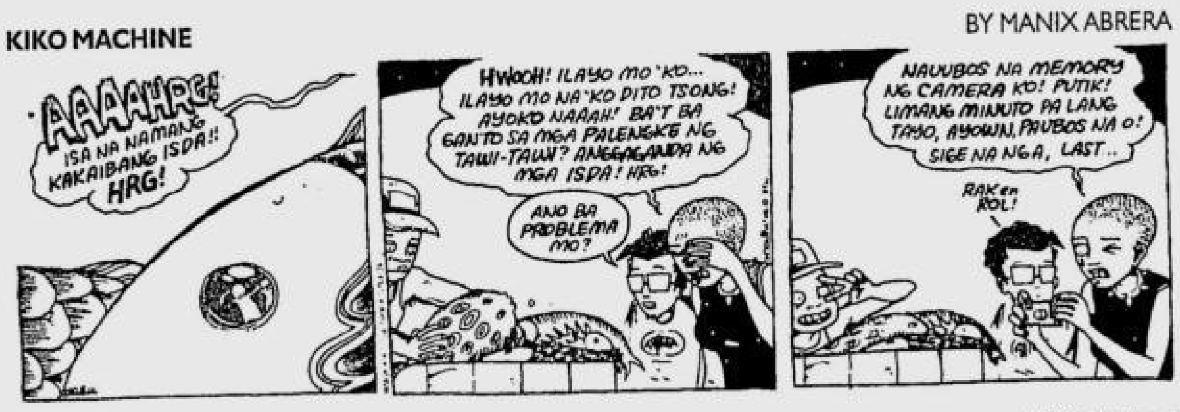
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD AND FORGIVE US OUR SINS...
KUNG HIHINGI KA NG FORGIVENESS DAPAT ADMITIN MO NA NAG-KASALA KA NGA!!!
GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD AND PARDON US. AMEN!!!
CHIONGLO

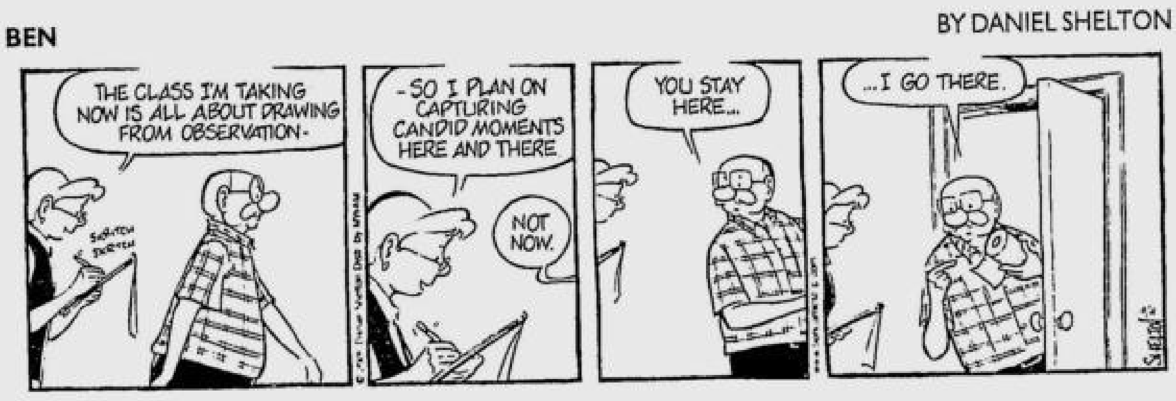
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


AAAAHRG! ISA NA NAMANG KAKAIBANG ISDA!! HRG!
HWOOH! ILAYO MO 'KO... ILAYO MO NA 'KO DITO TSONG! AYOKO NAAAH! BA'T BA GANTO SA MGA PALENGKE NG TAWI-TAWI? ANGGAGANDA NG MGA ISDA! HRG!
ANO BA PROBLEMA MO?
NAUUBOS NA MEMORY NG CAMERA KO! PUTIK! LIMANG MINUTO PA LANG TAYO, AYOWN, PAUBOS NA O! SIGE NA NGA, LAST...
RAKEN ROL!

BEN

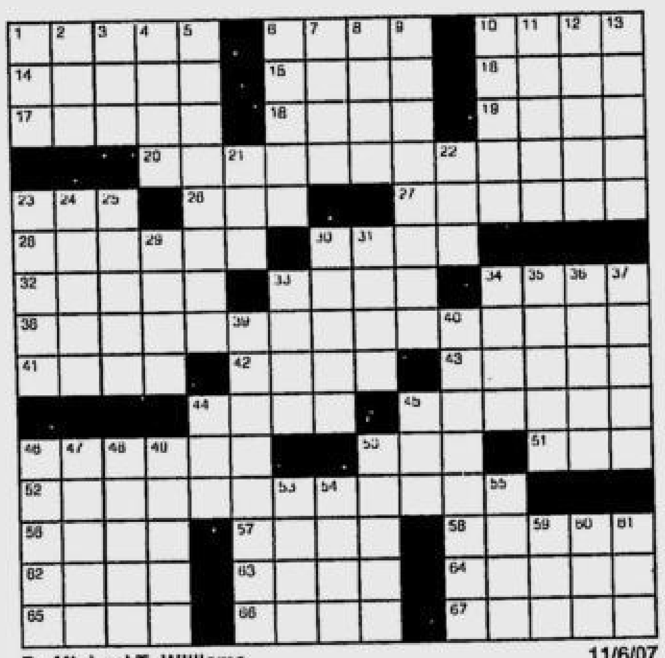
BY DANIEL SHELTON


THE CLASS I'M TAKING NOW IS ALL ABOUT DRAWING FROM OBSERVATION-
SCRITCH SCRITCH
-SO I PLAN ON CAPTURING CANDID MOMENTS HERE AND THERE.
NOT NOW.
YOU STAY HERE...
...I GO THERE.
SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Corrosive substances
6 Junk mail, online
10 Dating from
14 Conduit
15 Zhivago's love
16 Long, for short
17 Come next
18 Absent (from)
19 Van Halen or Trebek
20 What's black?
23 Audit expert's letters
26 Letters that bang
27 Put on a first coat
28 Continue without change
30 Swiss peaks
32 In reserve
33 False god
34 Lohengrin's love
38 What's white?
41 Besides
42 Stage part
43 Arctic shelter
44 __ of the above
45 Running-back "Sweetness"
46 "Valley of the Dolls" writer
50 Dot follower
51 Contrail milieu
52 What's read?
56 Ladder stage
57 Oater actor Jack
58 Fawning flatterer
62 Language of Lahore
63 O.K. Corral lawman
64 Misstep
65 N.E. state
66 Salon tints
67 Irene and Meg

DOWN
1 Sleeve card?
2 Is able to
3 __ and outs
4 Glob of paint
5 Icier, weatherwise
6 Point of view
7 Bear hands
8 Bedouin
9 Mandrake
10 Violin maker of note
11 Oregon capital
12 Type of daisy
13 Set in position
21 __-Margret
22 B&O and Reading
23 Russell or Cameron
24 Kind of code or colony
25 Faulty
29 Pain in the neck, e.g.
30 One Astaire
31 Rob or Chad
33 PC mouse target
34 Upright
35 Cheerful tunes
36 Sergeant fish
37 Extreme pain
39 Streep movie
40 Width of a circle
44 Opp. from SSW
45 What the weasel goes
46 Banjo beat
47 "Star Trek" character
48 Dispatches
49 Aberdeen breed
50 Bivouacs
53 Bump off
54 Remove a peel
55 Actor Calhoun
59 Parseghian of football
60 Ho of Hawaii
61 Calendar meas.


1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67

By Michael T. Williams
Clearwater, FL

11/6/07

Monday's Puzzle Solved

T	O	P	I	C		F	A	D	S		S	C	A	R
A	M	I	N	O		R	U	I	N		O	H	N	O
F	A	T	S	O		I	R	A	E		D	A	T	A
T	R	A	I	L	B	L	A	Z	E	R		S	I	S
			T	A	L	L			R	E	J	E	C	T
I	N	T	U	N	E		N	A	S	S	A	U		
R	O	I		T	E	L	E	X		H	D	T	V	S
I	N	G	E		P	A	P	E	R		E	L	E	A
S	E	E	T	O		V	A	L	E	T		E	A	U
		R	E	V	E	A	L		A	R	G	Y	L	L
P	A	S	S	U	P			P	L	E	A			
A	S	H		M	O	N	E	Y	M	A	R	K	E	T
S	T	A	X		N	C	A	R		C	L	O	V	E
H	E	R	E		Y	A	R	E		L	I	T	E	R
A	R	K	S		M	A	N	X		E	C	O	N	O

(C)2007 Tribune Media Services, Inc.
All rights reserved.

11/6/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: Above all, you're an optimist. You're also highly energetic and enthusiastic about life. These qualities help you relate to others in an entertaining way, both socially and professionally. You have a great sense of humor. You work to maintain an exterior of calm, reasonable reserve. Something you've been involved with for about nine years might wrap up or end this year.

Birthdate of: Sally Field, actress; Glenn Frey, singer; Ethan Hawke, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Be patient with partners and family members today. It's easy to jump the gun. Just remember: Anger serves no purpose other than to make everyone miserable.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Do not force issues if you're working with co-workers today. It won't get you anywhere; worse yet, it could alienate you from others.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Romance might be a bit touchy today. People are easily offended. Because Mars challenges the Moon today, people are irritated and emotionally volatile. Yikes!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You have to appreciate that Mars is in your sign now, and this makes you unusually aggressive and feisty. If people act defensive around you, it could be for a reason. Lighten up.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This could be an accident-prone day because of your impatience, but that's the only reason. Cool your jets. Think twice before you speak, especially with relatives and siblings.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Quarrels about money and possessions are totally possible today. More likely, you'll feel aggressive about something that's financially related, especially when buying something. Stay mellow.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Today the Moon is in your sign, which makes you more emotional. On top of this, the Moon makes a tough aspect to fiery Mars, which makes your emotions even more fiery! (Be nice.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You might feel disgruntled and not know why today. Don't worry about it. The Moon is going through a subconscious, hidden part of your chart, but it's only for two days.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Arguments or debates with friends or members of groups could arise today. You might avoid this by simply refusing to take the bait. Why promote discord?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Something will happen today that calls attention to you. You might want to look your best, because those who notice you will include bosses, VIPs and big shots.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Avoid political and religious arguments today. You're quick to defend a certain point of view right now. That's because you have strong, humanitarian instincts.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Squabbles about shared property or who's responsible for what might arise today. By tomorrow, there will be greater clarity about this. Why not wait until then?

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis SudoKu

By Dave Green

4	7				3	5	6	
	8	1	7	9				
					2		1	
						7		
1	2						3	5
		5						
	4		2					
				8	6	9	7	
	1	6	5				4	3

Difficulty Level ★★

11/06

© 2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

1	7	2	8	3	6	5	9	4
9	6	5	4	2	7	8	3	1
8	3	4	1	5	9	6	2	7
2	9	3	5	6	1	7	4	8
5	1	7	3	4	8	9	6	2
4	8	6	7	9	2	1	5	3
3	4	1	6	8	5	2	7	9
7	5	9	2	1	4	3	8	6
6	2	8	9	7	3	4	1	5

Difficulty Level ★

Wanted: Filipino doctors to treat a new ...

From page C1

DAN doctors and their colleagues from other countries cited research after research confirming that autism is caused by an illness in the body that also harms the brain.

Tests on ASD children have found that many of them suffer from gut disease due to food intolerance, vitamin and mineral deficiency from eating the same unhealthy food daily, yeast infection from early and almost continuous exposure to antibiotics and/or inability to excrete toxic wastes that had accumulated in their bodies.

Any and all of these chronic problems can cause sleeplessness, headaches, heartburn, stomach pains, diarrhea and other discomforts that ASD kids, for lack of language and understanding, cannot verbalize.

The underlying pain, in turn, leads to the behaviors that most people find socially unacceptable—excessive crying, aggression, even self-injurious acts like head-banging (why not, if a child has constant headaches). Everybody sees the child running around like an uncontrollable whirlwind and they say he's doing that because he's autistic. But, as Dr. Bock puts it, "Most of these kids don't behave well because they don't *feel* well."

Most ASD children suffer from food allergies that can cause inflammation of their intestines and prevent nutrients from finding their way to the brain, prompting 2006 keynote speaker Dr. Jaquelyn McCandless to describe them as "children with starving brains." Observe how children with ASD who stay away from food when they have a fever behave better and are more verbal.

The most prevalent nutritional issue among ASD kids is intolerance to gluten and casein. Gluten is a protein found in grains like wheat, rye, barley, oats and semonila. Casein is found in milk and dairy products like cheese, butter and cream.

Children with ASD do not have enough of a certain enzyme that's supposed to break down gluten or casein. There's a whole process involved here that I'm not equipped to discuss because it has to do with digestion and chemical compositions. I barely passed biology in college and, to be honest, I flunked chemistry. At any rate, the gluten and the casein that do not get processed properly produce little things called opiate peptides. The clue is in the word "opiate" because it sounds a lot like "opium" and indeed it is an opium copycat.

This is why autism-spectrum kids look "spacey" and act intoxicated. This is also why ASD children eat the same foods every day. They develop a craving for gluten and casein. Really, without a craving, who can eat chicken nuggets for lunch and dinner every single day? In a vicious twist of fate, our kids crave the very food that they cannot tolerate.

To make matters worse, partially digested gluten and casein also cause damage to the process of methylation, which is needed to rid the body of toxicity.

And then there are the vaccines. Babies born before 1963 were given only two kinds—one for polio and a combination vaccine for diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTP). After 1991, babies were being given as many as 20 vaccines. According to studies, by the time these babies were six months old, they were receiving, through vaccine injections, a mercury dosage that was 87 times higher than the allowable daily consumption of mercury in fish for adults.

What are the treatments recommended for children with ASD? Usually the very first thing that DAN doctors do is to put the child on the Gluten-Free and Casein-Free (GF-CF) Diet (see sidebar). At the same time, they recommend a good dose of multivitamin and mineral supplements. For those with yeast symptoms, they prescribe antifungal infection drugs and probiotics, not to mention epsom salt baths. Chelation by a qualified physician is advised for those who test positive for heavy metal poisoning, but only after the gut has been healed and the nutritional imbalance corrected. And don't let go of the behavioral, speech and occupational therapists just yet. They should continue to teach the skills ASD children lack.

A mother's plea

Now comes the part where I try to use my charms, if any, and make my plea.

We need Filipino doctors to find out what is ailing our children in their bodies that is somehow affecting the chemistry in their brains. Where are the gastroenterologists, immunologists, toxicologists, pediatricians and specialists in metabolism and nutrition who can help us? Why are local physicians hesitant to go full blast into this field?

A Filipino doctor I interviewed for a story on autism said the interventions presented at the HK conference worked only because the patients were older. I urge him and his colleagues to keep an open mind. There is an amazing volume of research on the biomedical causes of ASD already out there. Take time to study them and you'll find that they make a lot of sense.

Already, doctors in the US, UK, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Hong Kong and other advanced countries are devoting their clinical practices to the biomedical treatment of ASD children. They have long waiting lists of patients from all over the world. In September, I tried to make an appointment for my son with Dr. Bock whose clinic is in Rhinehart, New York. He's fully-booked until February 2008!

Labs needed

We need laboratories right here, preferably in many parts of the country, that can do urinary peptide tests for casein and gluten, hair analysis for mercury poisoning and blood tests for comprehensive metabolic panel, among other screenings for our autistic kids.

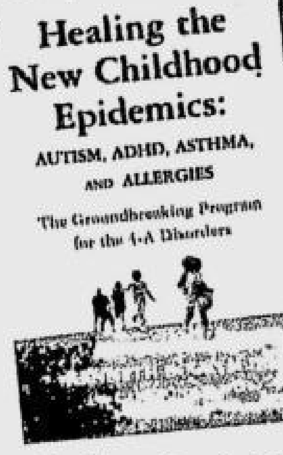
Do you know what parents of ASD kids here have been doing? They've been organizing themselves into small groups and flying in foreign doctors to treat their children. They chip in on the doctor's airfare and fees, and divide up the doctor's time among their children. They go to HK or Singapore for lab tests.

I've been hoping to get into one of these groups and schedule my son for a check-up, but when I think of the many kids out there much younger than Gabe who can be recovered and helped to lead normal lives, I always step back. Let the young ones go first, I say.

One day soon my son will be visited by an act of grace, I know, and he will get his turn. You see, it may be the one shot that can make real this image of Gabe that I take with me everywhere, and play in my head every night before I go to sleep and every morning when I wake up. It goes like this:

It is morning and Gabe comes in to give me a peck on the cheek. Mom, he asks, can I borrow some cash? I give him money and he tries to wangle more. Off he goes to work with his mobile phone, iPod and keys to the car and the front door. He looks cool in his Merger shirt and funky tie. At work, his desk is overflowing with books. He gets engrossed with his iMac every now and then. At break time, he trades jokes with his office buddies. Over lunch he gives them an earful on why he thinks Beatles and Beach Boys music will live forever. He picks up his girl after work and they hit the mall for a bite to eat, maybe a movie. After dropping her off, he drives home, sneaking into the house quietly so as not to wake up his grandma. When I come in after my late-night work, I see the light in his room. I peek in and catch him reading a book, talking to his girl on the phone, downloading music from the Web and trimming his toe nails—all at the same time. So typical! Imagine that.

Email the author at cbformoso@inquirer.com.ph


Healing the New Childhood Epidemics:
AUTISM, ADHD, ASTHMA, AND ALLERGIES
The Groundbreaking Program for the 4-A Disorders

The GF-CF diet: 'It can turn lives around'

THE NO. 1 RECOMMENDATION OF most of the doctors who spoke at the Asian Autism Conference in Hong Kong was the Gluten Free-Casein Free (GF-CF) Diet for children with ASD.

"The GF-CF diet turns lives around," says Dr. Kenneth Bock in his book on the 4-A epidemics.

According to ARI surveys, parents who have restricted their children from food containing gluten and casein reported that their kids got over their insomnia, diarrhea and agitation, not to mention that they showed marked improvements in their language and social skills.

"The bad news: It's relatively hard," notes Bock. "It's hard for kids to give up many of their favorite foods, and it's hard for parents to enforce these food restrictions."

It will require tough love to take away the ice cream and the lasagna, but if you're the parent of an ASD or ADHD child who hopes for recovery, you'll have to do it. If not, every meal will only deepen the damage to his/her body and brain.

If your kid is young, implement a strict GF-CF diet. Go full speed ahead because doing it half-heartedly might not get you the results you are hoping for. Also, the younger the child, the easier it is to start and maintain the diet.

Food tastes and preferences are usually not yet set in toddlers. Parents unwittingly shape their children's preferences just by the frequency with which they put certain foods on the table. When the cravings go away after the GF-CF diet has been adopted, your child will develop a taste for these foods.

You'll have to be on constant guard because so many of the everyday foods we give our children contain both gluten and casein. Take a deep breath: baby foods, biscuits, bread, bread crumbs, cakes, candies, cookies, custards, doughnuts, chocolate, muffins, pancakes, pasta, pastry, pies, pizza, puddings, rolls, sandwich spreads, soups, waffles—anything that has flour and dairy.

Gluten is in baked beans, cereals, chicken nuggets, condiments, crackers, croutons, gravy, ice cream cones, ice cream syrup, luncheon meat, malt, noodles, oatmeal, pasta, bread, pretzels, tomato paste, ketchup, confectioner's sugar—anything that is made of flour from wheat, barley, oats, semolina, and anything that is thickened or dusted with flour .

Casein, on the other hand, is in cow's milk, butter, cheese, cream, fudge, ice cream, margarine, milk chocolate, whey, whipped cream, yogurt—anything that has cow's milk in it.

While the carbohydrate and the calcium in the above food items are considered essential food groups, they become more harmful than beneficial to children who are unable to break down gluten and casein. In this case, it is better to avoid such foods and take vitamins and calcium supplements instead.

Besides, there are carbs that do not contain gluten. Rice, corn and potatoes are okay to give to children with ASD. Fruits are another source of carbohydrates.

As for calcium, believe it or not, there are sources other than cow's milk. Soybeans, tofu, sesame seeds, molasses, beans (pinto, garbanzo, kidney, etc.), almonds, hazel nuts, wild rice, artichoke, green beans and green leafy veggies like mustard greens and kale—all these can supply your child with calcium.

Milk is hard to take out if your child is practically still a baby, but try soy milk, rice milk or, if you can find it, potato milk. Coconut milk will substitute beautifully for cream.

Before long, you'll be a whiz at substitutions. Instead of ice cream, you can serve sherbet as long as there is no milk in it. Instead of thickening gravy with wheat flour, use rice flour. You can also use mayonnaise because basically it is made of only eggs and oil.

The first thing I took out of Gabe's diet was milk. I stopped giving him milk to drink. After the first Hong Kong conference, I stopped all dairy altogether and started giving him, in addition to multi-vitamins, vitamin C, zinc and calcium supplement with magnesium (I'll add Omega 3 soon). I also gradually eliminated bread, cakes, cereals, cookies and noodles made from grains containing gluten. We're still working on snacks. Since he's now a young man, it's hard to completely control what he eats, especially outside the home. But he is aware of what he should avoid.

Here are some tips for implementing the GF-CF diet:

- Read food labels. While there are more GF-CF food products available now in the chillers and shelves of supermarkets than there were five years ago, you'll still need to watch out because there's plenty more that contain gluten or casein, or both, hiding in such ingredients as artificial flavorings, caseinate, dextrin, hydrolyzed plant protein, lactose, malt, barley malt, malt flavoring, MSG, modified food starch.
- Make a list of what your child eats now. From this list, make another for the dishes that contain dairy. See if they can be prepared without cheese, butter or milk, or if you can find substitutes for dairy. Do the same for the foods that contain flour.
- Introduce foods that have no gluten or casein before starting the diet. If your preschooler eats nothing but spaghetti, start giving him rice and potatoes. Serve meats, fruits and vegetables at every meal. Use a favored food item as an incentive for your child to try a new dish. Once he's eating the GF-CF food you can take away the old favorite.
- Take away one food at a time. Eliminate milk first, ice cream next, then cheese, next butter and so on until all dairy products are out. Do the same for foods containing gluten.
- Adopt the GF-CF diet one meal at a time. Start with snacks. When your kid is successfully eating GF-CF snacks, try it for breakfast, then lunch and, finally, dinner.
- Monitor your child closely for any physical reactions (rashes, nausea, hyperactivity, etc.) to every food that you add even if it doesn't contain gluten or casein. Observe as well for any reactions when you take away food. Some kids may feel worse at first then feel better. This is usually the case when someone is going through "withdrawal" from an addiction.
- If your child responds positively to the GF-CF diet, continue with it. Later, you may give him dairy or wheat again, one food at a time. But if he shows signs of regression, stop immediately and put him back on a strict GF-CF diet.
- Network with other parents whose kids are already on the GF-CF diet. They can share sources with you. "Successful Diet Intervention" by the GF-CF Diet Support Group is a superb resource for parents beginning the GF-CF diet for their kids. The packet even contains a three-week daily menu planner with recipes.
- Read Karyn Seroussi's "Unravelling the Mysteries of Autism and PDD" as it chronicles the recovery of her son as a result of the diet, among other things. Log on to www.gfcfdiet.com.

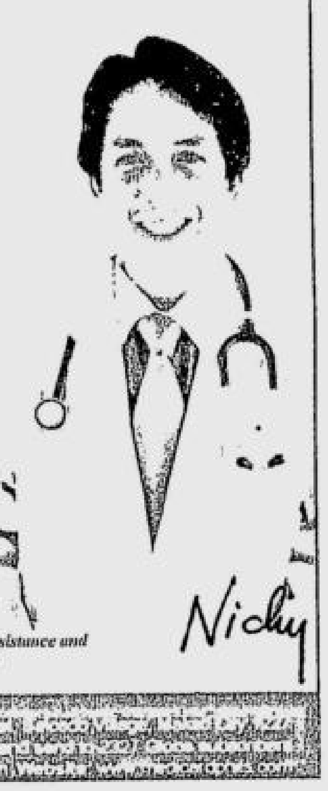
MEDICard The Healthcare I Deserve!

Take Charge Doc!

Does Hypertension lead to heart attack or other heart condition?

High blood pressure (hypertension) is a major health problem worldwide. It is considered a major risk factor for heart attack, heart failure and stroke. About half of people having first time heart attacks and two thirds of people having first time strokes suffer from high blood pressure. Most cases of high blood pressure have no cure, but the overwhelming majority can be managed and controlled with diet and medication. Although 120/80 mmHg is considered ideal, researchers at National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute(NHLBI) report that the risk of developing coronary heart disease and heart attack doubles for every 20/10 mmHg increase in blood pressure from a baseline of 115/75 mmHg. Therefore, the best blood pressure level is now suggested to be less than 120/80 mmHg. If left uncontrolled, people with high blood pressure (hypertension) are at risk of: heart disease (heart failure, sudden cardiac death, cardiomyopathy and arrhythmias), stroke, accelerated coronary heart disease, aortic aneurysm (weakness of vessel wall that balloons out and is in danger of rupturing), kidney failure and retinopathy (eye disease that leads to loss of vision). Despite its wide-ranging reach and potentially serious consequences, high blood pressure is relatively easy to diagnose and control, either with medications or lifestyle modifications. It is very important that people with high blood pressure seek treatment and follow their physician's plan.

Dr. Peter Jay Sanvicente provides us with this week's discussion on hypertension. Dr. PJ, as he is commonly addressed by his patients, specializes in Adult and Invasive Cardiology. He earned his medical degree at the University of Sto. Tomas in 1992. He later took his residency training at St. Luke's Medical Center followed by his sub-specialization in Adult and Invasive Cardiology. He is affiliated with several medical organizations and a diplomate of the Philippine College of Physicians and the Philippine College of Cardiology. He spends his free time reading, watching movies and dining out. Dr. Pj also loves long drive travel. MEDICard members may visit him for consultations at Manila Adventist Medical Center every Monday and Wednesday from 5-7 pm



MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

MEDICard [illegible] (0917) 800 2327 [illegible]

Your Doctor Knows Best

Judy Y. Lao-Tan, MD, FPCP, FPSG, FPSDE

Question:

For the past nights, I've been awakened by a distinct sour taste in my mouth, which seems to make me continuously cough and catch my breath. What could be causing all these?

Doctor Says...

The perception of an acidic or a sour taste in the mouth is one of the several symptoms of gastroesophageal reflux disease or GERD brought about by the backward flow or reflux of acid and stomach contents. This happens when the muscle at the base of the esophagus—called lower esophageal sphincter—opens up at the wrong time and allows the contents of the stomach to flood up into the esophagus. When acidic stomach juices frequently come in contact with the sensitive lining of the esophagus, GERD results. The most recognizable symptoms of GERD are heartburn (burning sensation or pain occurring in the middle of the chest) and acid regurgitation (sour taste in the mouth). GERD can also lead to choking sensation while lying down and coughing, or increased difficulty of breathing while asleep. An association between GERD and asthma has been accepted for many years, and the condition referred to as Reflux Asthma has been the focus of many studies.

Doctors most often look at GERD as the cause of asthma when asthma begins in adulthood; asthma symptoms get worse at night or after a meal, exercise, or lying down; or asthma does not respond to standard anti-asthma medications. There are two possible explanations for the cause of Reflux Asthma. One is that, when acid from the stomach enters the esophagus, a nerve reflex is triggered causing the airways in the lungs to narrow in order to prevent more acid from entering it. This results to shortness of breath and wheezing (characteristic sound of narrowed airways). The other explanation is that, acid reflux causes direct injury to the lining of the throat, airways, and lungs making breathing difficult and causing a persistent cough.

The diagnosis of Reflux Asthma is often made upon taking note of the history of symptoms and improvement of these symptoms with certain medicines. Sometimes the only symptom may be difficulty in controlling asthma despite adequate anti-asthma medications. Typical symptoms of Reflux Asthma are asthma symptoms that get worse after intake of high fat meal, coffee, chocolate, or alcohol, wheezing, shortness of breath, or cough (often persistent and particularly getting worse upon lying down) while experiencing other reflux symptoms such as heartburn and regurgitation.

Specialized tests are available such as 24-hour pH monitoring, which measures the acid content in the esophagus. The occurrence of asthma symptoms is then matched with the occurrence of acid reflux to confirm the diagnosis.

In treating Reflux Asthma, optimal standard anti-asthma treatment should be given (e.g. inhaled corticosteroids and bronchodilators). In addition, there are safe and effective medications that can decrease the amount of acid in the stomach and control the symptoms of reflux. These include proton-pump inhibitors or PPIs and H2-receptor antagonists. PPIs are more effective at decreasing acid with minimal side effects. Other helpful strategies to help improve reflux include many non-medical therapies such as eating smaller meals, eating low fat foods, avoiding large meals at night or snacks close to bedtime, avoiding foods that worsen reflux (coffee, chocolates, alcohol among others), elevating the head of the bed, giving up smoking, losing weight if overweight, and wearing loose clothing. A final option is anti-reflux surgery, which is appropriate only in severe cases where other treatments have failed.

It is best that you consult your physician to determine the underlying cause of your condition and to give you the best available treatment option.

Dr. Lao-Tan is a gastroenterologist. She is an active consultant at the following hospitals in Cebu where she holds clinics: Cebu Doctors Hospital, Cebu Velez General Hospital, and Chong Hua Hospital. Dr. Lao-Tan is also an Associate Professor in Medicine at the Cebu Institute of Medicine.

This column is supported by AstraZeneca Philippines as part of its disease awareness campaign. This is not intended to replace the advice of a healthcare professional. Always consult your doctor.

AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals (Phils.), Inc.
16/F Net 3 Center, cor. 3rd Ave. & 30th St.,
Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, 1634 Philippines
Tel. no. (632) 777 8700, www.astrazeneca.com.ph

AstraZeneca cares

Healthcare program for mother and child

ST. LUKE'S MEDICAL CENTER has launched the Total Family Health Care (TFC) Program.

The program is designed to empower families to lead healthy and happy lives through a holistic educational approach that covers pregnancy, parenting and preventive care of the child in all his/her stages of development.

A joint project of the Departments of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Pediatrics, the TFC Program (7230101 ext. 5544 or 5542) recognizes parenting as the foundation of a happy, healthy family life.

Through the program, St. Luke's will support parents by educating them on prenatal care, child development, parenting, nutrition, music appreciation and values formation.

The TFC Program has three phases.

Phase 1 covers the care for the pregnant woman and the unborn baby. A woman who enrolls in the TFC Program gets a membership card. She has to attend at least six classes to keep her membership.

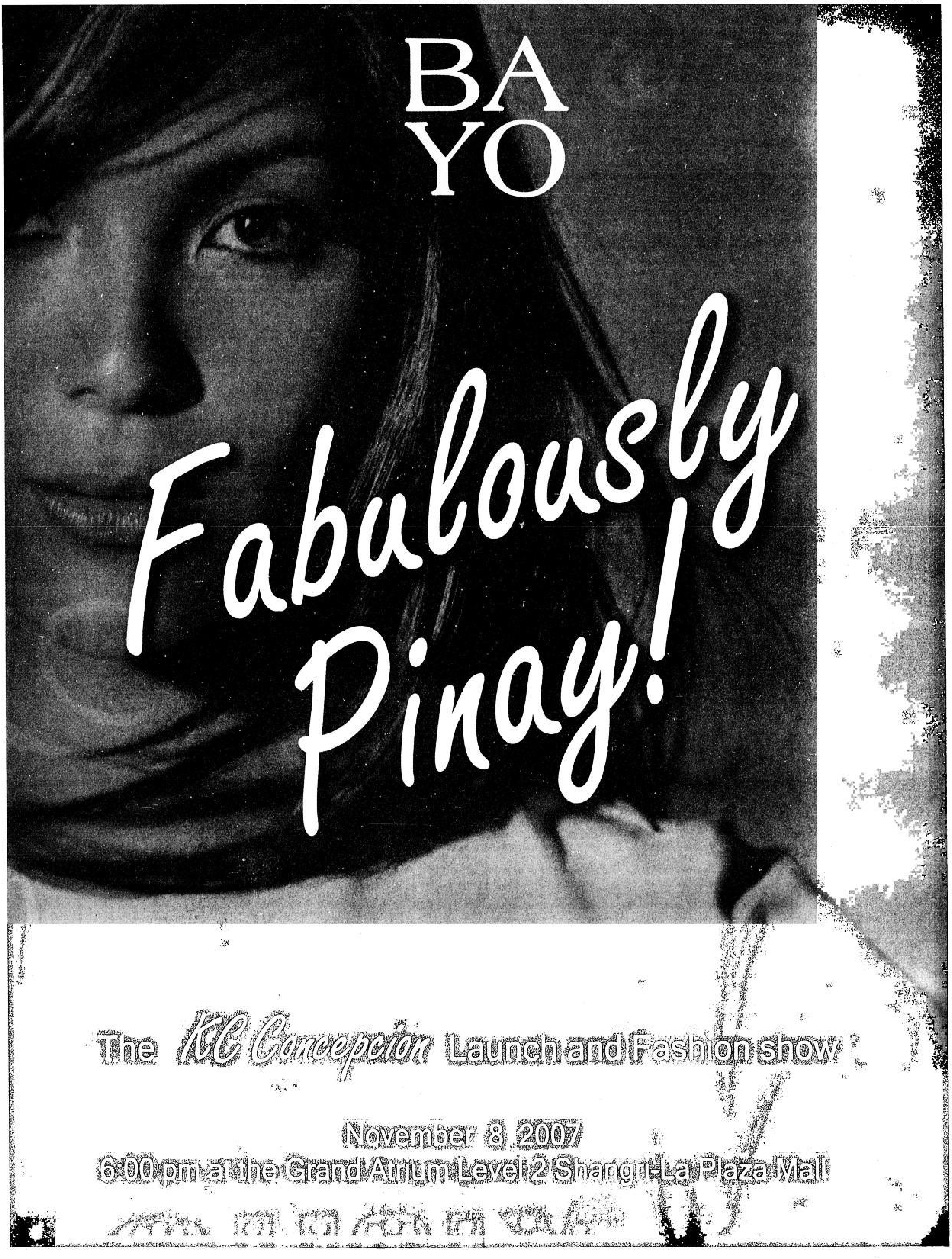
Monthly classes on nutrition for pregnant women, reading and music-appreciation techniques, among others, are held.

Phase 2 covers the care of the new mother and the newborn. At St. Luke's, a new mother will get a Birth Kit that includes the certificate of birth, Newborn Care Guide, Postpartum Care Guide, Breastfeeding DVD and Baby Music CD.

Phase 3 covers parenting and preventive care throughout a child's development period. Parents will be encouraged to continue attending weekly lectures that will cover important information on the toddler, pre-school, school age and adolescence.

Nutritious tea

TEA LOVERS CAN NOW ENJOY THE NEWEST variation to their favorite beverage—in a cocktail drink that mixes the healthy benefits of teas with the goodness of fresh fruits. Recently introduced by Fruit Magic, the country's premier juice bar, the new tea-mixer drink is called "Health-teas" and is rapidly gaining popularity among fitness-conscious consumers. Brewed tea variants, such as the popular jasmine, green and black teas, are placed in a cocktail shaker and mixed with a helping of either mango, guava, *dalandan* or four seasons. The concoction is then shaken briskly then served as a cocktail refreshment that has all the antioxidants, flavonoids and energy-giving nutrients of tea enhanced by the rich vitamins and health-giving nutrients of fruits. Fruit Magic believes the new product will spice up the company's popular line of juices, shakes and nectars, all made from healthy, all-natural fruits. Fruit Magic's Jasmine, Green and Black Health-Teas are available in all the 57 Fruit Magic outlets in Metro Manila, Cebu and Pampanga. Call 3646927, 3643621, fax 3662934 or visit www.fruitmagic.com.ph.


BA
YO
Fabulously Pinay!
The KC Concepcion Launch and Fashion show
November 8 2007
6:00 pm at the Grand Atrium Level 2 Shangri-La Plaza Mall

ENTERTAINMENT
Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment
Editor Emmie G. Velarde
sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) or email us at entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

French Crullers
A delightful new twist
P15
DUNKIN' DONUTS
Pasalubong ng Bayan
Available only in selected outlets

Lea Salonga pushes her limits

LEA's role as Fantine in "Le Miz" tested her strength as an actress.

RODEL ROTONI

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

"LES MISERABLES" IS COMING to an end in Broadway. Our country's pride **Lea Salonga** shares, "What began as a six-month run turned into what will become a one year and three month stint. Not bad, given its initial intentions. I had a great time."

Any embarrassing moment during her stint at "Les Miz"? "It happened not when I was Fantine, but when I was in my ensemble track. It was the second show of a second-show day, so I was pretty tired mentally. It was the finale of Act 1 and only the principals are singing—remember, I'm now in the chorus. When it was time to sing the Eponine line, instead of remaining quiet, I started singing along in full voice. I had to slam on the brakes quickly … I nearly lost my mind," she says chuckling. "Having said that, though, after performing in a corset, cheeks red with lipstick, mascara running down my face from crying and a wig made to look like I just got a seriously bad haircut, embarrassing moments cease to exist. Pretty awesome when that happens."

Unforgettable

And the most unforgettable one? "The one moment that stands out is when the Eponine who performed with me on my first night (**Megan McGinnis**) stepped aside to let me take my first bow alone. She did the same on my last night as well. It was an incredibly generous gesture," says Lea.

What impact has her role left on her? "The impact on me perhaps more than anything is how hard I was pushed as an actor, more than as a singer. It tested my emotional limits and allowed it to affect my body and my voice. It plunged me headlong into another person's life, living it fully in the context of doing a show. Makes me wonder now just how much further I can go and stretch my limits."

Apres Les Miz, La Lea's fanatics shouldn't be miserable because she'll be back in the scene soon and outdo herself once again in her next show.

Overwhelming

In **Piolo Pascual's** fans' site http://piolopascual-adiks.multiply.com, PJ wrote last Oct. 28 that he has touched base with his Star Circle '96 batchmates **Blue de Leon, Aurora Halili, Don Laurel** and also **Nikki Valdez** and her husband **Chris Lina**, who are all based in Toronto.

PJ was en route to Montreal for the next leg of his concert tour. The overwhelming reception of our *kababayans* in Canada is more than enough assurance that no amount of malicious intrigues can ever pull PJ down.

Au contraire, controversies even makes his market value increase!

Back to work

Claudine Barretto is slated to shoot a movie with **Aga Muhlach** in South Africa. She will also start taping for her *sineserye* "Maligno." But for sure, Claud won't overwork herself. She'll devote quality time to her kids as well as to her craft.

Sweet weakness

Zsa Zsa Padilla pigged out on chocolates while enjoying a DVD marathon of all the episodes of "Gilmore Girls." She says that based on the series' characters, she dresses like Rory and talks like Lorelai. After eating all the sweets in sight (including the ones **Dolphy** hid in their entertainment center), Zsa officially declares, "Chocolates and me are through!" Now it's only Dolphy's sweetness that remains to be her weakness.

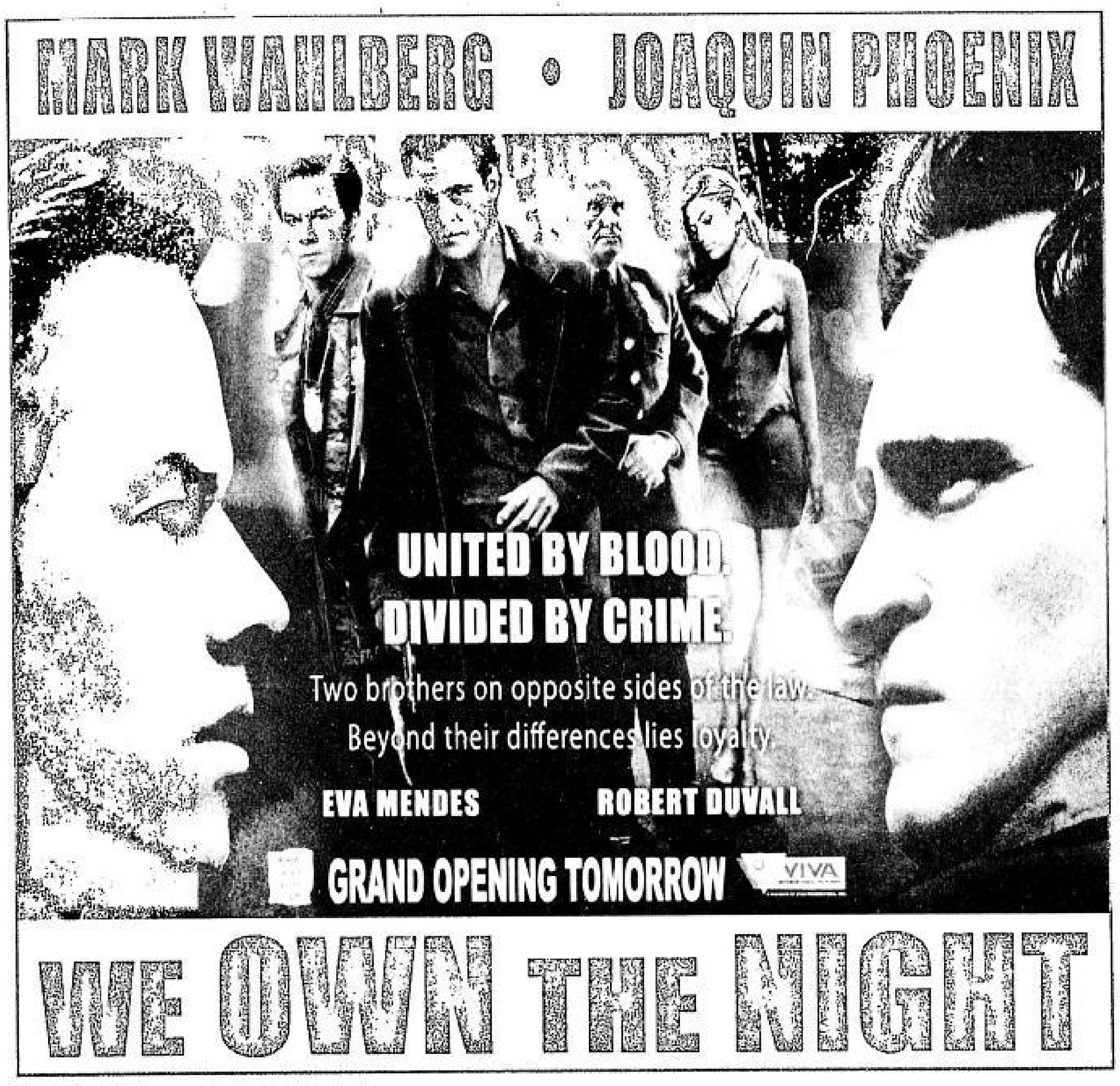
Body talk

The controversial Baywalk Bodies are back with a bang with their album "The Very Best of Baywalk Bodies" (released by LDG Productions and distributed by Galaxy Records). It includes "Appear, Disappear," "Kilig," "Lollipop," "Kiliti" and other scintillating songs, plus sexy photos of the femmes fatales group. Their feisty manager Lito de Guzman says that Baywalk Bodies should not be compared to the Sexbombs: "*Pa*-cute *lang sila. Ang mga alaga ko* all- out *ang pa*-sexy." Let their bodies do the talking!

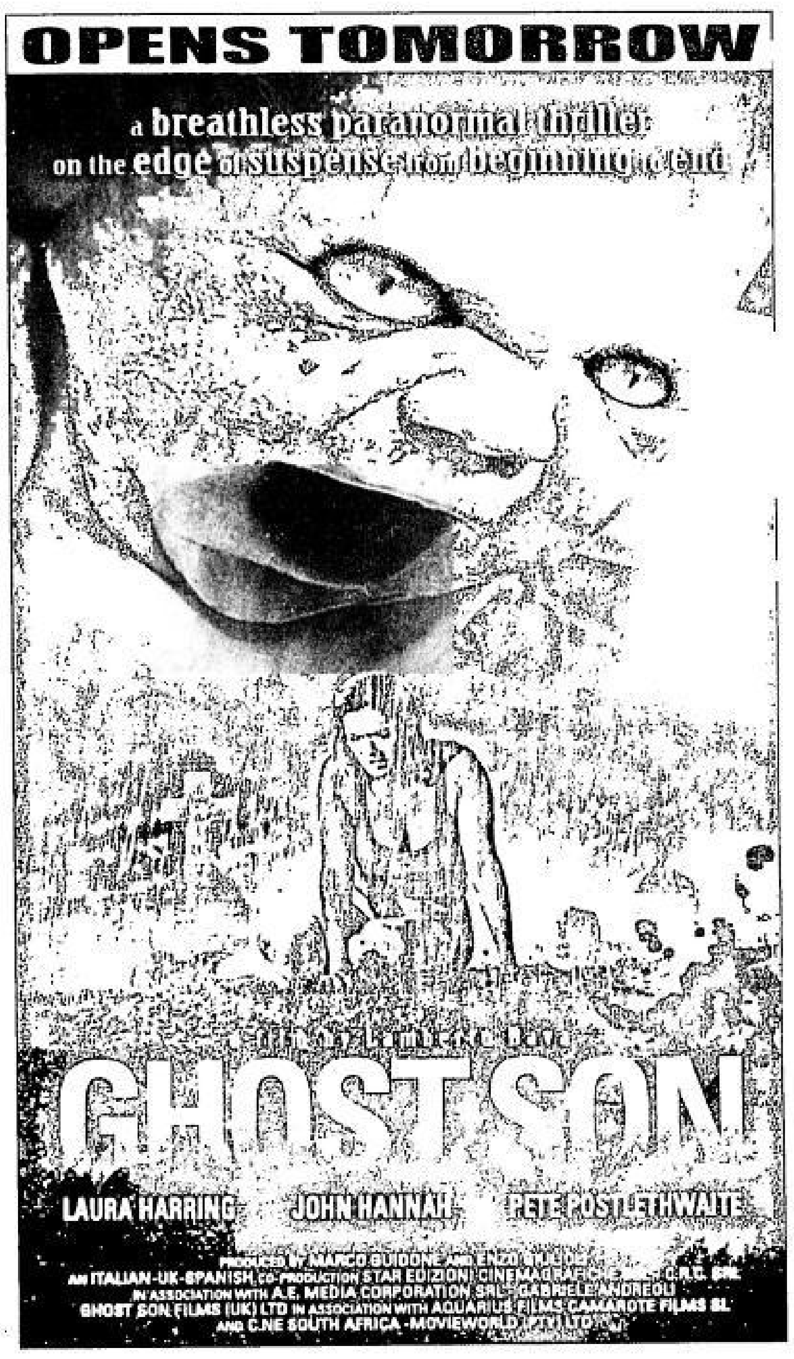
Haunted house

A Pinoy Big Brother insider

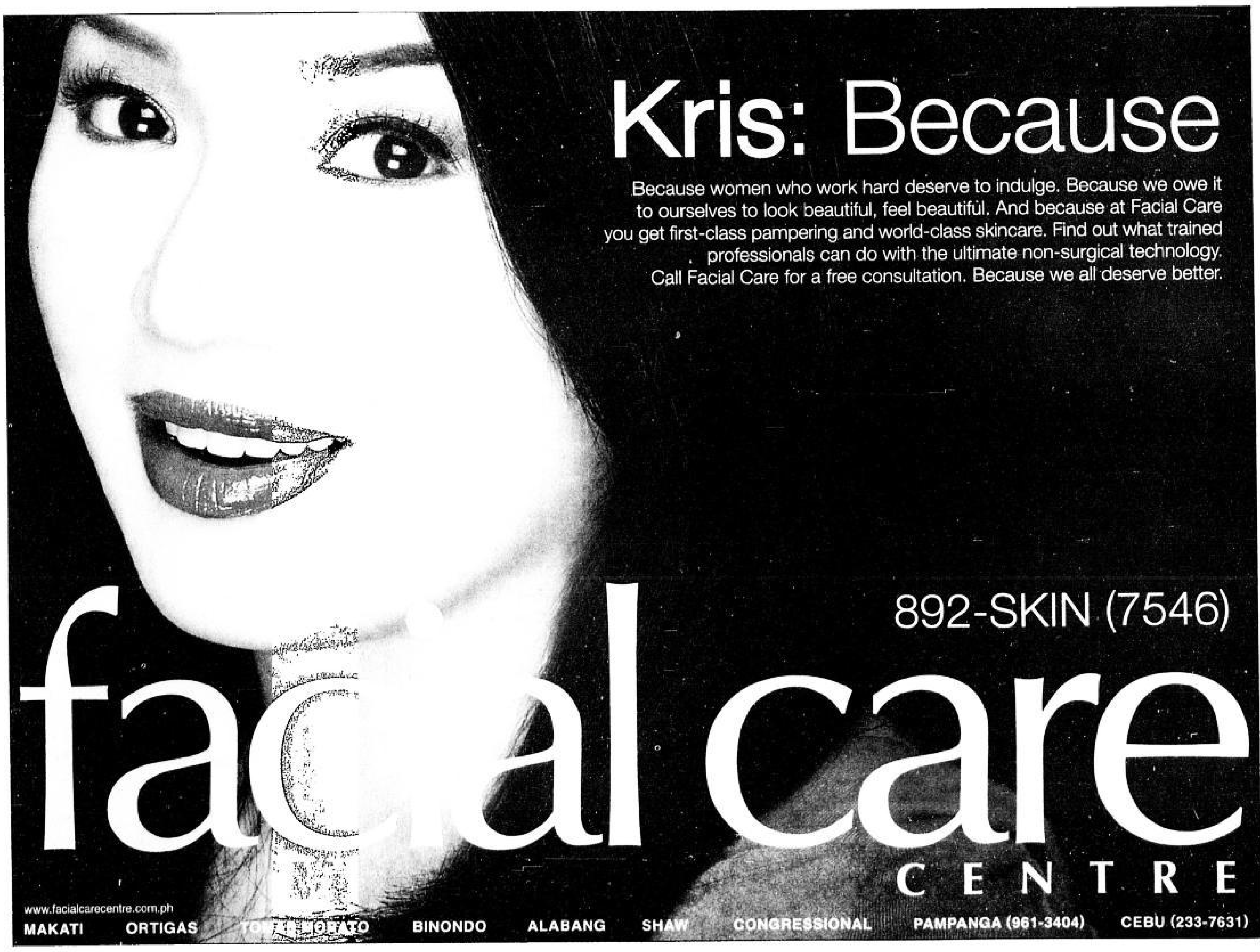
LEA/ D4



MARK WAHLBERG • JOAQUIN PHOENIX
UNITED BY BLOOD.
DIVIDED BY CRIME.
Two brothers on opposite sides of the law.
Beyond their differences lies loyalty.
EVA MENDES
ROBERT DUVALL
GRAND OPENING TOMORROW
VIVA
WE OWN THE NIGHT



OPENS TOMORROW
a breathless paranormal thriller
on the edge of suspense from beginning to end
GHOST SON
LAURA HARRING
JOHN HANNAH
PETE POSTLETHWAITE
AN ITALIAN-UK-SPANISH CO-PRODUCTION STAR EDIZIONI CINEMAGRAFICHE
IN ASSOCIATION WITH A.E. MEDIA CORPORATION SRL GABRIELE ANDREOLI
GHOST SON FILMS (UK) LTD IN ASSOCIATION WITH AQUARIUS FILMS CAMAROTE FILMS SL
AND C.NE SOUTH AFRICA -MOVIEWORLD (PTY) LTD


Kris: Because

Because women who work hard deserve to indulge. Because we owe it to ourselves to look beautiful, feel beautiful. And because at Facial Care you get first-class pampering and world-class skincare. Find out what trained professionals can do with the ultimate non-surgical technology. Call Facial Care for a free consultation. Because we all deserve better.

892-SKIN (7546)
facial care
CENTRE
www.facialcarecentre.com.ph
MAKATI ORTIGAS TOMAS MORATO BINONDO ALABANG SHAW CONGRESSIONAL PAMPANGA (961-3404) CEBU (233-7631)

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
6th floor Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City

1 STARDUST
2 BALLS OF FURY
3 LUST CAUTION
4 HALLOWEEN

PREMIERE

30 DAYS OF NIGHT

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1 BALLS OF FURY
2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3 HALLOWEEN
4 HIDE & SEEK

starmall
EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7268180

3 LUST CAUTION (SNEAK PREVIEW)
4 UNREST
5

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504288, 6433994

1 BALLS OF FURY
2 HIDE & SEEK
3 HALLOWEEN
4 30 DAYS OF NIGHT

THEATRES

1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 STURDUST
3 HIDE & SEEK

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-6271

1 HIDE & SEEK
2 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 HALLOWEEN
2 RESIDENT EVIL
3 UNREST
4 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
5 BALLS OF FURY
6 STARDUST
7 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
8 LUST CAUTION (SNEAK PREVIEW)
9 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
10 HIDE & SEEK

Blue Wave
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 BALL OF FURY
2 HIDE & SEEK
3 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
4 RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 HIDE & SEEK
5 30 DAYS OF NIGHT

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
2 HILANDER
3 KNOCKED UP
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 HIDE & SEEK
2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3 BALL OF FURY

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449348)

1 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
2 THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 HIDE & SEEK
2 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 HALLOWEEN

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
2 LAST LEGION

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
2 BALL OF FURY
3 HALLOWEEN
4 LUST CAUTION (SNEAK PREVIEW)

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 NO RESERVATION
2 HIDE & SEEK
3 DON'T LOOKBACK
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 RETRIBUTION
2 HIDE & SEEK
3 HIGHLANDER

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 HIDE & SEEK
2 NO RESERVATION
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 STURDUST

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795 3320

1 THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING
2 HIDE & SEEK
3 RESIDENT EVIL

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
2 HIDE & SEEK

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4746

1 MR. WOODCOCK
2 HIGHLANDER

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 MR. WOODCOCK
2 PILYA
3 HUBAD NA MULTO
4 HILGHLANDER

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 HIDE & SEEK
2 MOLATA
3 NO RESERVATION
4 DON'T LOOKBACK
5 HAIRSPRAY

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 MR. WOODCOCK
2 HIDE & SEEK
3 STURDUST
4 THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 PLEASE CALL
2

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA

1 RENDITION • THX
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

2 HALLOWEEN
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

3 BALLS of FURY
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

4 SUPERBAD Sneak Preview
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

5 HIDE and SEEK
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

6 30 DAYS of NIGHT
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

7 UNREST 1:00 3:15
STARDUST 4:55 7:35 10:00

8 MANILA PRIDE FEST
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

9 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

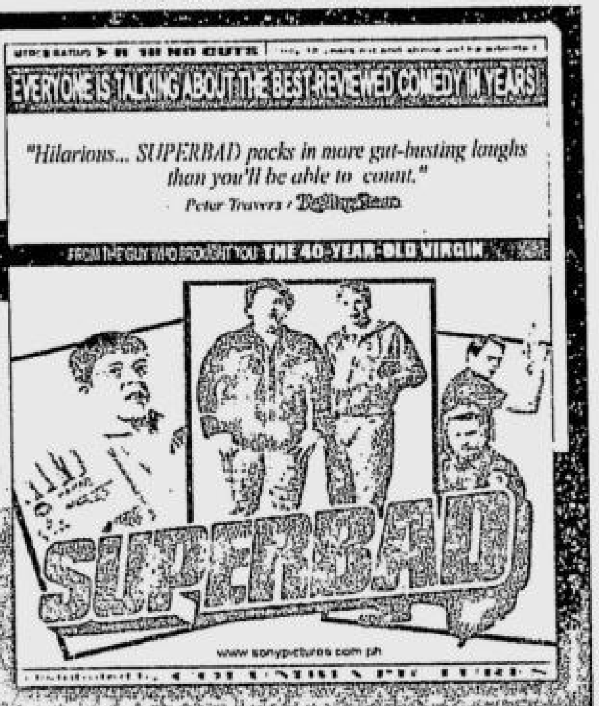
10 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
1:40 3:40 5:40 7:40 9:40

SNEAK PREVIEWS

November 05 & 06

at all
Robinsons Movieworld
Branches

REGULAR Showing: November 14


EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT THE BEST-REVIEWED COMEDY IN YEARS!
"Hilarious... SUPERBAD packs in more gut-busting laughs than you'll be able to count."
Peter Travers / Rolling Stone
FROM THE GUY WHO BROUGHT YOU THE 40-YEAR-OLD VIRGIN
SUPERBAD
www.sonypictures.com.ph
COLUMBIA PICTURES

ERMITA

1 HIDE and SEEK 11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

2 RESIDENT EVIL 3 12:00 2:00 4:00
THE SEEKER: 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 30 DAYS of NIGHT
12:30 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

4 RENDITION 11:10 1:25 3:40
UNREST 6:00 8:00 10:00

5 BALLS of FURY
11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

6 SUPERBAD Sneak Preview

7 HALLOWEEN
11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

METRO EAST

1 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
12:10 2:25 4:40 6:55 9:10

2 30 DAYS of NIGHT
10:50 1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

3 HIDE and SEEK
11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

4 HALLOWEEN
11:30 1:55 4:20 6:45 9:10

5 UNREST
12:10 2:25 4:40 6:55 9:10

6 BALLS of FURY
12:10 2:25 4:40 6:55 9:10

7 RESIDENT EVIL 3
11:40 2:00 4:30 6:40 9:00

8 SUPERBAD Sneak Preview

NOVALICHES

1 HALLOWEEN
2 30 DAYS of NIGHT
3 BALLS of FURY
4 HIDE and SEEK
5 SUPERBAD Sneak Preview

PIONEER

1 HALLOWEEN
1:10 3:35 6:00 8:25

2 30 DAYS of NIGHT
1:15 3:45 6:15 8:45

3 SUPERBAD Sneak Preview

4 BALLS of FURY
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:35 8:45

STA ROSA
Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (049) 837-0907

1 HALLOWEEN
2 SUPERBAD Sneak Preview
3 HIGHLANDER
4 HIDE and SEEK

LIPA
(043) 757-3864 / (043) 312-5670

1 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
2 HIDE and SEEK
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 STARDUST
5 SUPERBAD Sneak Preview

DASMARINAS
Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (046) 416-4362

1 SUPERBAD Sneak Preview
2 HIGHLANDER
3 HALLOWEEN
4 HIDE and SEEK

IMUS
(046) 875-3838 / (046) 471-8188

1 SUPERBAD Sneak Preview
2 HIDE and SEEK
3 HALLOWEEN
4 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT

ANGELES
Ticket Price: P 90 / P95 (045) 892-2348

1 HALLOWEEN
2 KUNG FU FIGHTER
3 HIDE and SEEK
4 SUPERBAD Sneak Preview

TARLAC

1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 DON'T LOOK BACK
3 SHOOT 'EM UP

STARMILLS

1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
2 HALLOWEEN
3 SUPERBAD Sneak Preview
4 HIDE and SEEK
5 BUTTERFLY on a WHEEL
6 RESIDENT EVIL 3

BACOLOD
Ticket Price: P70 (034) 441-0459

1 SHOOT 'EM UP
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 indieSine: TRIBU
4 HIDE and SEEK
5 SUPERBAD Sneak Preview
6 BUTTERFLY on a WHEEL

ILOILO
(033) 336-6070

1 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
2 HIDE and SEEK
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 STARDUST
5 MR. WOODCOCK
6 SUPERBAD Sneak Preview

Tribu
BAWAL PUMASOK

showing at Robinsons Movieworld BACOLOD

SHANG CINEPLEX

① STARDUST
MTRCB GP
1:15, 4:00

② BALLS OF FURY
MTRCB GP 1:05, 3:15
5:30, 7:45, 10:00

③ 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
MTRCB R-13
2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00

④ HALLOWEEN
MTRCB R-13
2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30

PREMIERE THEATRE
SUPER BAD (R-18)
2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

Catch the Cineplex Special

Shang Cineplex E-see Club
Enjoy exciting privileges, rewards and discounts.
Apply at the Shang Cineplex ticket counters.
Log-on to www.shangcineplex.com
or call 633-4735 for details

6th floor, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
EDSA corner Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Call 633-2227 or 633-4735
for more details.

Shangri-La Plaza

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1
HALLOWEEN
11:00 , 1:20 , 3:40
6:00 , 8:20 , 10:35
R-13

CINEMA 2
UNREST / RENDITION
11:15 , 1:35 , 3:50
/ 5:35 , 8:05 , 10:35
R-13

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND • EX

PROMENADE
GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3
SUPERBAD
10:55 , 1:15 , 3:35
5:55 , 8:15 , 10:35
R-18

CINEMA 4
30 DAYS OF NIGHTS
11:35 , 2:20 , 5:05
7:50 , 10:35
R-13

CINEMA 5
BALLS OF FURY
11:15 , 1:35 , 3:50
6:05 , 8:20 , 10:35
GP

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

November 9&10, 16&17, 23&24	" Into the Woods " musical	8:00 PM
November 15 , 2007	Retrospect	8:00 PM
November 20 , 2007	Angelos	8:00 PM
November 22 , 2007	Body Builders	8:00 PM

TEATRINO
PROMENADE GREENHILLS

Nov. 7, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28 & 29	Cerrudo Classico	8:00 PM

FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 722-4532 LOC 116

Eastwood City
presents

Richard Poon

Watch him bring back the classics, with hits from Tony Bennett, Frank Sinatra, Rod Stewart, Harry Connick, Jr. and more.

Every Tuesday at 8PM
Eastwood Fuente Circle

FREE ADMISSION!

Eastwood City
tel 68[illegible] 770 to 74 • 0917-8-EWCITY

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City

[illegible] eastwood and sen[illegible] & Sun Cellular subscri[illegible]

687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

30 DAYS OF NIGHTS
3:25, 6:00, 8:35, 11:05
R-13

BALLS OF FURY
2:10, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45, 11:00
G

HALLOWEEN
3:20, 5:45, 8:10, 10:35
R-13

LUST, CAUTION
1:25, 4:35, 7:45,10:55
R-18

OPENS TOMORROW
MTRCB Rating ▶ G | All Ages Admitted

Half his size,
twice the trouble

...and she's moving in.

DWAYNE 'THE ROCK' JOHNSON

Walt Disney Pictures Presents

THE GAME PLAN

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

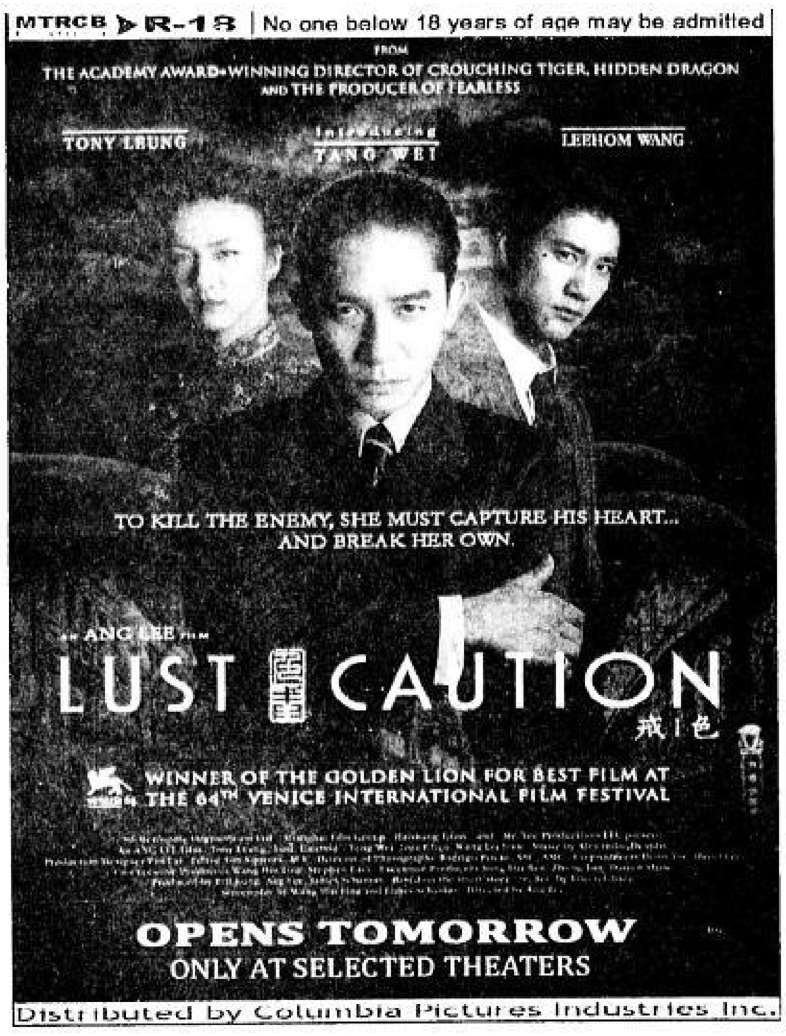
CHEER FACTOR

Kirk Douglas clowns around

LOS ANGELES—A month shy of his 91st birthday, actor Kirk Douglas dressed up as a clown and appeared at a Los Angeles playground dedication ceremony. The legendary "Spartacus" star slapped high-fives with students as he walked through the Shirley Avenue Elementary School schoolyard in the suburban San Fernando Valley.

AP

MTRCB R-18 | No one below 18 years of age may be admitted


FROM
THE ACADEMY AWARD-WINNING DIRECTOR OF CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON AND THE PRODUCER OF FEARLESS
TONY LEUNG
introducing TANG WEI
LEEHOM WANG
TO KILL THE ENEMY, SHE MUST CAPTURE HIS HEART... AND BREAK HER OWN.
AN ANG LEE FILM
LUST CAUTION
戒 色
WINNER OF THE GOLDEN LION FOR BEST FILM AT THE 64TH VENICE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

OPENS TOMORROW
ONLY AT SELECTED THEATERS

Distributed by Columbia Pictures Industries Inc.

Araneta Center
aranetacenter.net

Gateway Ali MALL FarmersPlaza
gatewaymall.com.ph

Gateway CINEPLEX 10
gatewaycineplex10.com

LARGEST CURVED SCREEN 70 FT WIDE, 30 FT HIGH
EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

30 DAYS OF NIGHT
1:15 / 4:00 / 6:45 / 9:30

HALLOWEEN
12:20 / 2:40 / 5:00 / 7:20 / 9:40

HIDE AND SEEK
1:50 / 4:10 / 6:30 / 9:00

UNREST
12:30 / 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30

BALLS OF FURY
12:30 / 2:45 / 5.00 / 7:15 / 9:30

THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING
4:20 / 9:20

SUPER BAD
1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30

RENDITION
1:50 / 6:50

STARDUST
12:35 / 3:30 / 6:25 / 9:20

30 DAYS OF NIGHT
12:45 / 3:25 / 6:10 / 9:00

ARANETA COLISEUM
www.aranetacoliseum.com

2007 WORLD POOL CHAMPIONSHIP
Nov. 3 to 11, 2007

AI AI AI ... D Greatest Performance Of My Life
Nov. 16, Friday 8pm

AKON - LIVE IN MANILA
Nov. 29, Thursday 8pm

TEN: PIOLO PASCUAL LIVE AT THE ARANETA
Nov. 30, Friday, 8pm

For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph

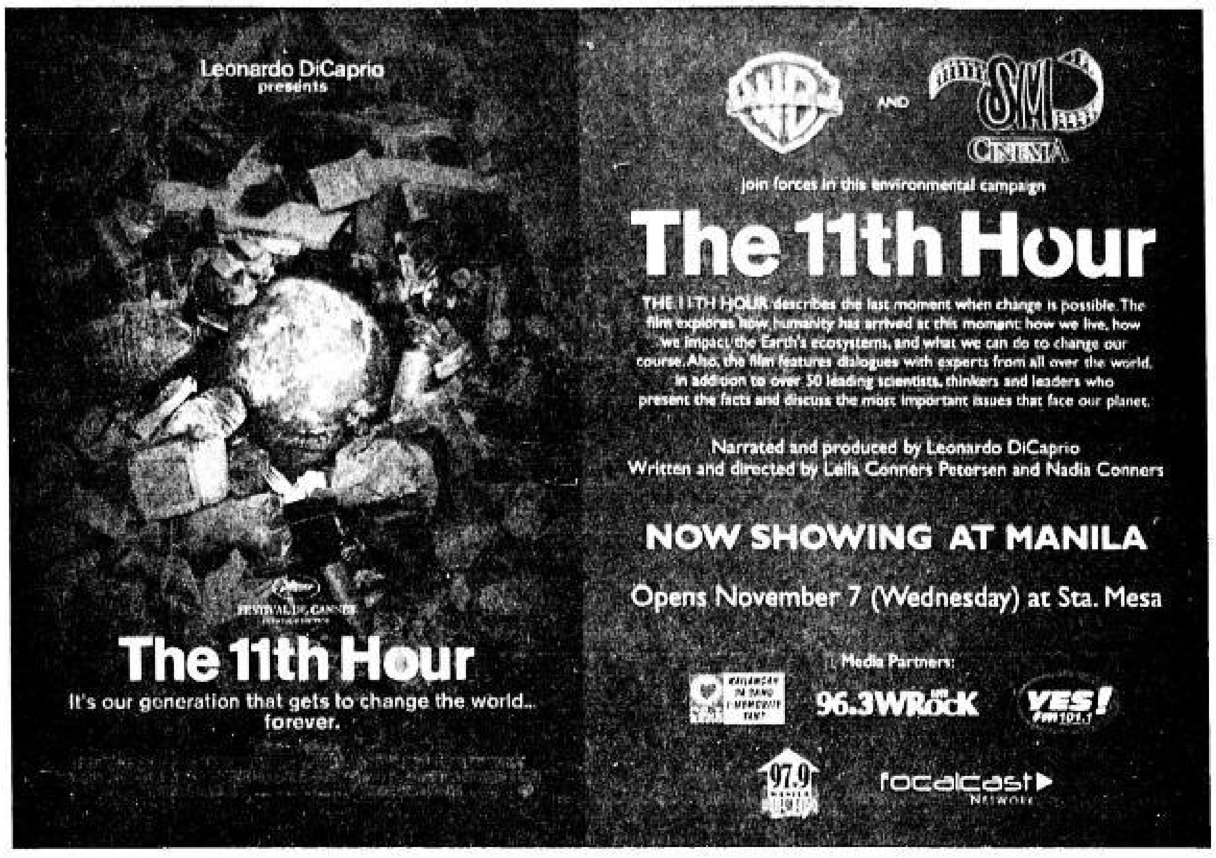
---

OPENS TOMORROW

Everybody loved him.
One woman understood him.
Inspired by the extraordinary life of salsa legend, Hector Lavoe.
JENNIFER LOPEZ
MARC ANTHONY
EL CANTANTE
THEIR MUSIC CHANGED THE WORLD.

SM CINEMA
SHARE A MOVIE WITH A LOVED ONE

movietime SHOWTIME™
VISIT WWW.SMCINEMA.COM
* Powered by WWW.YEHEY.COM
Your life as a movie
BIG MOVIES • BIG STARS • BIG SHOWS • BIG EVENTS


Leonardo DiCaprio presents
FESTIVAL DE CANNES
The 11th Hour
It's our generation that gets to change the world... forever.
AND
SM CINEMA
Media Partners:
96.3WRocK
YES! FM101.1
97.9
focalcast Network

join forces in this environmental campaign

The 11th Hour

THE 11TH HOUR describes the last moment when change is possible. The film explores how humanity has arrived at this moment: how we live, how we impact the Earth's ecosystems, and what we can do to change our course. Also, the film features dialogues with experts from all over the world, in addition to over 50 leading scientists, thinkers and leaders who present the facts and discuss the most important issues that face our planet.

Narrated and produced by Leonardo DiCaprio
Written and directed by Leila Conners Petersen and Nadia Conners

NOW SHOWING AT MANILA
Opens November 7 (Wednesday) at Sta. Mesa

METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104
IMAX
DEEP SEA 3D Admission Price: P250
1:00 PM • 2:30 PM • 7:00 PM • 8:30 PM
T-REX 3D Admission Price: P250
4:00 PM
SPACE STATION Admission Price: P200
5:30 PM

1 RENDITION
2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3 BALLS OF FURY
4 HALLOWEEN
5 RESIDENT EVIL 3
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

PREMIERE CINEMA
HIDE & SEEK
CENTERSTAGE
THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
Bookings now accepted. Inquire at 556-2314.

THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
30 DAYS OF NIGHT
CINEMA 2
BALLS OF FURY
For ticket reservations, dial 6338976
All major credit cards accepted

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 HIDE & SEEK
2 STARDUST
3 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
4 RENDITION
5 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
HALLOWEEN
30 DAYS OF NIGHT
BALLS OF FURY
OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
10 UNREST
11 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
12 HIDE AND SEEK

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
2 HALLOWEEN
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
5 RENDITION
6 BALLS OF FURY
STARDUST
8 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
9 HIDE AND SEEK
10 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
11 UNREST
12 OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 HALLOWEEN
2 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
UNREST
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3
STARDUST
6 BALLS OF FURY
30 DAYS OF NIGHT
8 HIDE AND SEEK
9 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
10 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
12 RENDITION

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
2 HALLOWEEN
3 BALLS OF FURY
4 OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
5 HIDE & SEEK
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
8 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
9 RENDITION
10 RESIDENT EVIL 3

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
30 DAYS OF NIGHT
2 BALLS OF FURY
3 UNREST
APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5 HALLOWEEN
6 HIDE AND SEEK

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
BALLS OF FURY
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 30 DAYS OD NIGHT
4 OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
5 HALLOWEEN
6 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
7 UNREST
8 HIDE AND SEEK
9 RENDITION

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
30 DAYS OF NIGHT
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 HALLOWEEN
4 BALLS OF FURY

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
HALLOWEEN
BALLS OF FURY
HIDE AND SEEK
4 UNREST
RESIDENT EVIL 3
6 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
11TH HOUR
8 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
9 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
10 RENDITION
11 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
12 OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
HALLOWEEN
APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 HIDE AND SEEK
4 HIGHLANDER V

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
RENDITION
2 HALLOWEEN
3 UNREST
HIDE AND SEEK

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 BALLS OF FURY
2 HALLOWEEN
3 HIDE AND SEEK
30 DAY OF NIGHT

FREE and SPREE!
CONGRATULATIONS
ARLEEN FLORES
GRAND PRIZE WINNER
P10,000 Penshoppe shopping spree
Arleen is just one of five Grand Prize winners!
Other lucky winners who will be enjoying their Penshoppe shopping spree are:
THELMA ONESA
LEALYNN LIONG
JUNRAY BORBON
EDWARD GALANG
PENSHOPPE
SM CINEMA

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 THE SEEKER: HIDE & SEEK
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 HIDE AND SEEK
4 HALLOWEEN
5 UNREST
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
7 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
8 OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 HALLOWEEN
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 STARDUST
4 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
5 HIDE AND SEEK
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 HALLOWEEN
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 THE SEEKER THE DARK IS RISING
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 STARDUST
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 KUNG FU FIGHTER
3 HALLOWEEN
4 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
5 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
6 HIDE & SEEK

SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187
1 STARDUST
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
4 RESIDENT EVIL

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
STARDUST
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 HALLOWEEN
4 NO RESERVATIONS

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 HIDE AND SEEK
2 HALLOWEEN
3 BALLS OF FURY
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5340811
1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 HIGHLANDER V
3 HIDE & SEEK
4 HALLOWEEN

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 HIGHLANDER V
2 STARDUST
3 HIDE AND SEEK
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5 BRATZ
6 HALLOWEEN

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 HALLOWEEN
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 MR. WOODCOCK
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3
5 STARDUST
6 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
7 **RESERVED**
8 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 STARDUST
2 HALLOWEEN
3 SHOOT EM' UP
4 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
5 BRATZ/ OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
7 HIDE & SEEK
8 KUNG FU FIGHTER

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010
1 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
2 SHOOT EM' UP
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3/ DECEMBER BOYS
4 HIDE AND SEEK

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

NOTICE

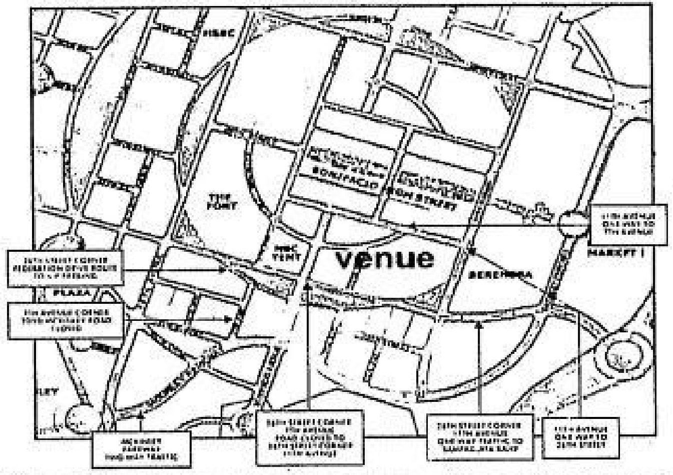
Globe brings you
the Beyoncé experience
Live in Taguig 2007
Another live concert with MTV Music Television

NOVEMBER 7, 2007 · 7PM · WEDNESDAY · BONIFACIO GLOBAL CITY OPEN FIELD

YOUR SAFETY IS OUR UTMOST CONCERN.
PLEASE SUBMIT TO SECURITY CHECKS AND NOTE THE FOLLOWING PROHIBITED ITEMS:

1. Professional video cameras, audio recording devices or any recording devices. If in any case that a person is caught filming, the material will be confiscated. Refusal to comply will result to asking the person caught to leave the venue.
2. Professional still cameras
3. Banners and flags of any kind
4. Laser pointers
5. Weapons or any sharp objects that can be used as weapons
6. Fireworks and/or any kind of pyrotechnics
7. Glass bottles, PET bottles, cans, hard plastic containers, etc.
8. Large back packs and large bags

TRAFFIC RE-ROUTING PLAN


venue
THE FORT
PLAZA
BONIFACIO HIGH STREET
MARKET!

For safety reasons, children below 3 ft are not allowed to enter the venue.

THE MANAGEMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DENY ENTRY TO ANYONE CARRYING PROHIBITED ITEMS OR DEEMED TO BE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS OR ALCOHOL.

GATES OPEN AT 5:30PM
Please come early to avoid the rush as strict security will be implemented.

Lea Salonga pushes her limits

From page D1

insists that the ghost inside the PBB house is still very much around: "They just edit out the scenes where there are strange silhouettes so as not to scare the viewers. The housemates are too engrossed with their tasks so they just ignore those eerie stuff. Maybe some of them are not even aware that the house is haunted." When, oh when, will the ghost get evicted from Kuya's house?

Book launch

Christine Bersola will launch her third children's book, "The Story of Christine" on Nov. 7, 4 to 6 p.m. at the Glorietta main activity center fountain area. It will also be her post-birthday celebration. Tin Tin will be joined by **Maricel Laxa** who's going to do a back-to-back reading with her and **Cheryl Cosim**, who is also hosting the event. Tin-tin's and **Julius'** lovable daughter Anya will be around to finally put to rest nasty rumors that she figured in a fatal accident. That's one story Tintin would rather forget.

E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com.

OPENS TOMORROW
CAIRO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL OFFICIAL COMPETITION
MONTREAL WORLD FILM FESTIVAL OFFICIAL SELECTION
KERALA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL OFFICIAL COMPETITION
ATAUL
FOR RENT
JOEL TORRE JACLYN JOSE
RONNIE LAZARO PEN MEDINA IRMA ADLAWAN
NONI BUENCAMINO COCO MARTIN
Music NONONG BUENCAMINO Special participation RAMON ZAMORA
Introducing IRISH CONTRERAS
Tita Swarding Clarissa Mantalla Denver Olivarez Jet Alcantara Cheryl Ramos
Jimi Concepcion Susan Corpuz Pipoy Jr. Betong Inah Alegre
Executive Producer ANTHONY V. GEDANG
Written and Directed by NEAL TAN
Artiste Entertainment Works International

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI TEL: 898-1440/41
DOLBY DIGITAL

RENDITION R13 12:30,3:00,5:30, 8:00,10:30	STARDUST G 12:00,2:25,5:00, 7:35,10:10	BALLS OF FURY G 12:10,2:10,4:10, 6:10,8:10,10:10
SUPERBAD R18 1:00,3:20,5:40, 8:00,10:20	HALLOWEEN R13 1:00,3:20,5:40,8:00	30 DAYS OF NIGHT R13 12:50,3:15,5:40, 8:05,10:30

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

AT THE CINEMAS

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729-7777

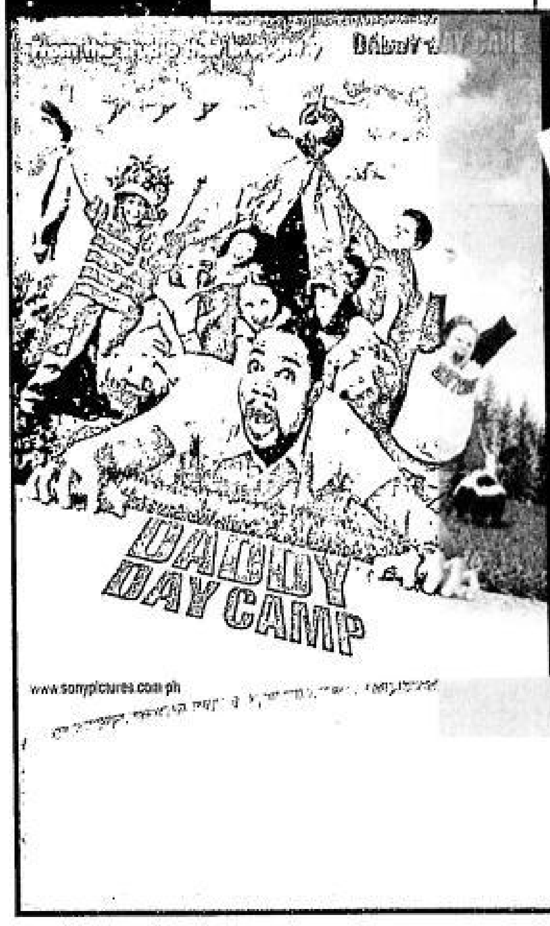
GLORIETTA 1	1 30 DAYS OF NIGHT	2 HALLOWEEN	3 BALLS OF FURY	4 HIDE & SEEK
GLORIETTA 4	1 DADDY DAY CAMP	2 SUPER BAD	3 BALLS OF FURY GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 HALLOWEEN	5 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL	6 30 DAYS OF NIGHT	7 RENDITION
GREENBELT 1	1 HALLOWEEN	2 BALLS OF FURY		
GREENBELT 3	1 SUPER BAD GUARANTEED SEATS	2 HALLOWEEN GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 BALLS OF FURY GUARANTEED SEATS	4 30 DAYS OF NIGHT GUARANTEED SEATS	5 DADDY DAY CAMP GUARANTEED SEATS	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 BALLS OF FURY	2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT		
	3 HALLOWEEN	4 SUPER BAD	5 STARDUSTRENDITION	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 HALLOWEEN	2 HIDE & SEEK	3 KUNG FU FIGHTER	4 SUPER BAD
MARKET! MARKET!	1 HIDE & SEEK	2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT		
	3 SUPER BAD	4 HALLOWEEN	5 BALLS OF FURY	
TRINOMA • THX Certified • All-Digital Sound • All-Stadium Seating • Computerized Ticketing System • Recliner Seats	1 HIDE & SEEK	2 THE UNREST	3 30 DAYS OF NIGHT GUARANTEED SEATS	4 BALLS OF FURY GUARANTEED SEATS
	5 SUPER BAD	6 RENDITION	7 HALLOWEEN GUARANTEED SEATS	

AT THE MALLS

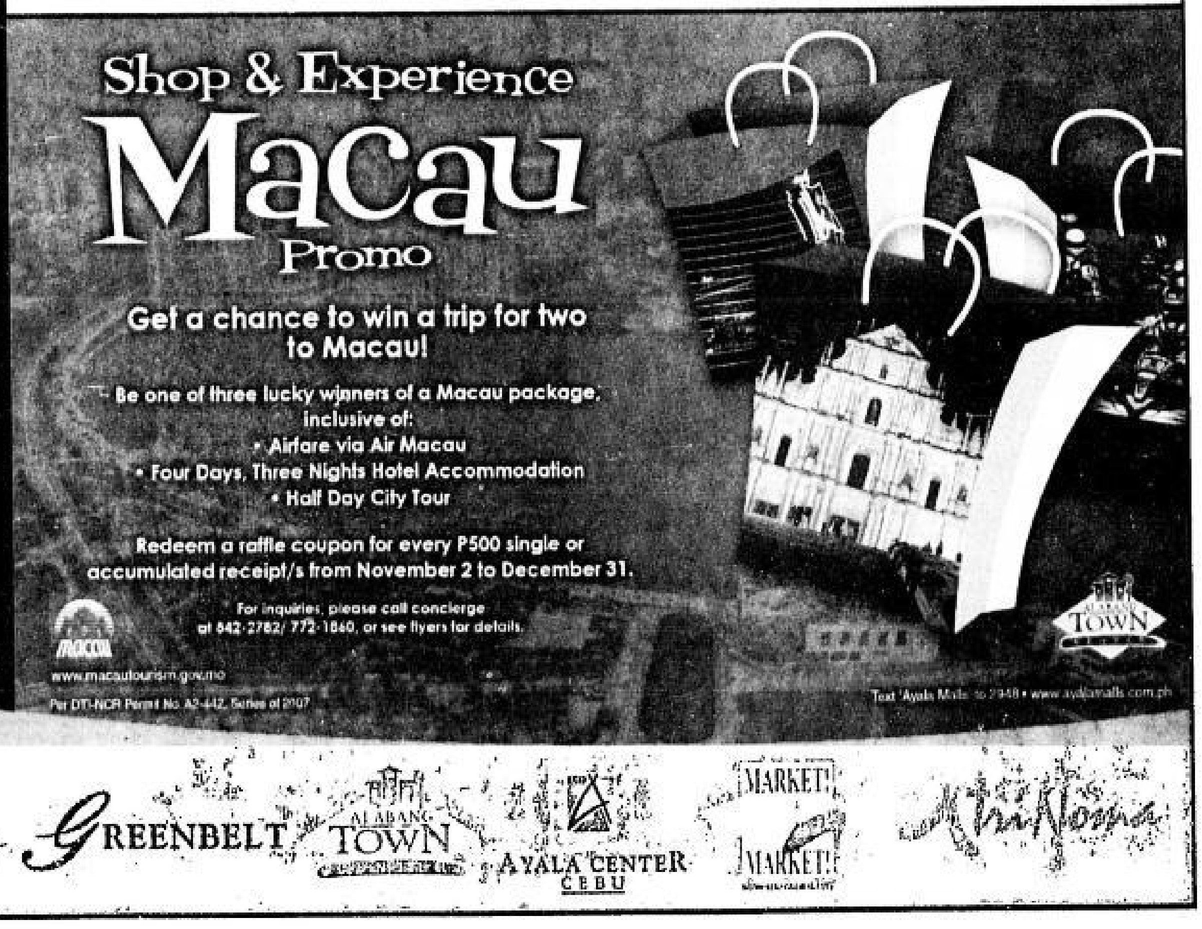
CONCIERGE HOTLINE NUMBERS:
Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000

Ayala Malls

glorietta	Seussical The Musical November 7 to 9; 11:30am, 3pm and 6pm; Activity Center
GREENBELT	The Tasting Room October 15 to December 31, 2007
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	TOWN NIGHTS featuring The Bloomfields Live! November 10; 6pm; Town Plaza
AYALA CENTER CEBU	BPI Installment Madness November 6 to 15; Paseos, Intersections and Rotunda Area
MARKET! MARKET!	Home for the Holidays Outlet Sale November 5 to 8; Activity Center
Greenbelt Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids August - December 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com
Ayala MUSEUM	2007 Shell National Students Art Exhibition - 100 Best Entries & Winners November 8 to 18, 2007; Ground Floor For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma	Rhythm Academy: Kuh Ledesma with the UP Jazz Ensemble November 4; 6pm; Activity Center


DADDY DAY CAMP
www.sonypictures.com.ph

EXCLUSIVE GUARANTEED VIEWING PLEASURE
Now Showing at Glorietta 4 & Greenbelt 3 Cinemas
From the studio that brought you
DADDY DAY CARE
DADDY DAY CAMP
"Fun Entertainment for All Ages! Dads, bring the entire family!"
MTRCB Rating: General Audience (G)
Special Thanks to NOKIA



Shop & Experience
Macau
Promo
Get a chance to win a trip for two to Macau!
Be one of three lucky winners of a Macau package, inclusive of:
• Airfare via Air Macau
• Four Days, Three Nights Hotel Accommodation
• Half Day City Tour
Redeem a raffle coupon for every P500 single or accumulated receipt/s from November 2 to December 31.
For inquiries, please call concierge at 842-2782/ 772-1860, or see flyers for details.
www.macautourism.gov.mo
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-442, Series of 2007
Text 'Ayala Malls' to 2948 • www.ayalamalls.com.ph

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma